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AN

EXPEDITION

OF

DISCOVERY

INTO THE

INTERIOR OF AFRICA,

THROUGH THE HITHERTO UNDESCRIBED

COUNTRIES OF THE GREAT NAMAQUAS, BOSCHMANS, AND HILL DAMARAS.

PERFORMED

Under the auspices of Her Majesty's Government,

AND

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY;

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AND CONDUCTED BY

SIR JAMES EDWARD ALEXANDER, K.L.S.

CAPTAIN IN THE BRITISH, LT.-COLONEL IN THE PORTUGUESE, SERVICE, F.R.G.S. AND R.A.S., ETC.

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EXPEDITION OF DISCOVERY,

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CHAPTER I.

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THE black rhinoceros, whose domains we seemed now to have invaded, resembles in general appearance an immense hog; twelve feet and a half long, six feet and a half high, girth eight feet and a half, and of the weight of half a

dozen bullocks; its body is smooth, and there is no hair seen except at the tips of the ears, and the extremity of the tail. The horns of concreted hair, the foremost curved like a sabre, and the second resembling a flattened cone, stand on the nose and above the eye; in the young animals the foremost horn is the longest, whilst in the old ones they are of equal length, namely, a foot and a half or more: though the older the rhinoceros the shorter are its horns, as they wear them by sharpening them against the trees, and by rooting up the ground with them when in a passion.

When the rhinoceros is quietly pursuing his way through his favourite glades of mimosa bushes, (which his hooked upper lip enables him readily to seize, and his powerful grinders to masticate), his horns fixed loosely on his skin, make a clapping noise by striking one against the other; but on the approach of danger, if his quick ear or keen scent make him aware of the vicinity of a hunter, the head is quickly raised, and the horns stand stiff and ready for combat on his terrible front.

The rhinoceros is often accompanied by a sentinel to give him warning, a beautiful green-backed and blue-winged bird, about the size of a jay, which sits on one of his horns. When he is standing at his ease among the thick bushes, or rubbing himself up against a dwarf tree, stout and strong like himself, the bird attends him that it may feed on the insects which either fly about him, or which are found in the wrinkles of his head and neck. The creeping hunter, stealthily approaching on the leeward side, carefully notes the motions of the sentinel-bird; for he may hear though he cannot see the rhinoceros behind the leafy screen. If the monster moves his head slightly and without alarm, the bird flies from his horns to his shoulder, remains there a short time, and then returns to its former strange perch; but if the bird, from its elevated position and better eyes, notes the approach of danger, and flies up in the air suddenly, then let the hunter beware; for the rhinoceros instantly rushes desperately and fearlessly to wherever he hears the branches crack.

Thick and clumsy though the legs of the

rhinoceros are, yet no man unless possessed of the powers of my chief huntsman, Henrick Buys, can hope to escape him by fleetness of foot on open ground; once he has a man fairly in his wicked eye, and there is no broken ground or bush for concealment, destruction is certain. The monster, snorting and uttering occasionally a short fiendish scream of rage, bears down in a cloud of dust, tearing up the ground with his curved plough-share, kicking out his hind legs in a paroxysm of passion, and thrusting his horns between the trembling legs of his flying victim, he hurls him into the air as if he were a rag, and the poor wretch falls many yards off. The brute now looks about for him, and if there is the least movement of life, he runs at him, rips him open, and tramples him to a mummy!

In general, the moment a hunter fires at a rhinoceros, or hurls a lance at him from behind a rock or tree, he runs off as fast as he can, and if his gun is heavy, he drops it the better to escape to a place of safety, and from whence he can watch the movements of the rhinoceros.

By Behemoth, "the chief of the ways of God,"

is meant the rhinoceros. "Surely the mountains bring him forth, where all the beasts of the field play; he lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reeds and fens. Behold he drinketh up a river and hasteth not; he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth." But the rhinoceros "which eateth grass as an ox" is the white rhinoceros, (which we had yet to see), larger but not so dangerous as the black species with which we had now to do.

When the elephant and the rhinoceros come together and are mutually enraged, the rhinoceros avoiding the blow of the trunk and the thrust of the tusks, dashes at the elephant's belly and rips it up. The lion of course never thinks of attacking the rhinoceros; and the Boschmans say that although found in the same haunts, they give way to one another. I thought then that the rhinoceros had no superior; none that he need fear save all-destroying man; when the Buys said—"Once at the Great Fountain, where we had gone to hunt, we found a rhinoceros which had just been killed by a hyena.

The hyena is in general a cowardly animal, and is scared even by a cow when it threatens with its horns in defence of its calf; but when the hyena is very hungry it seems desperate, and will attack any thing. The one which had killed the rhinoceros had followed it for some time, (as we saw by the footmarks), and had bitten it behind with its terrible jaws, till the rhinoceros fell and painfully died."

Having thus sufficiently introduced the black rhinoceros to my sporting reader, let us repose for a little under the refreshing shade of the trees of the Chuntop, before we endeavour to fight our way through the Bull's Mouth Pass.

* * * * * *

Many of the people were employed during the remainder of the 30th of March in *vleking* or cutting the meat of the game we had killed into thin flaps or steaks, and hanging it on the bushes to dry; and as "the ox is not muzzled whilst treading out the corn," so these fleshers' jaws were as fully employed as their hands. The most useless as hunters had the best appetites;

and old Aaron, the (so called) chief guide and butcher, ate till he could hardly waddle from bush to bush to cover them with red meat.

Aaron had a ten-pound appetite, or one of two ostrich eggs-calibre, and one ostrich egg is equal to four-and-twenty hen's eggs! If the reader is sceptical about the capacity of stomach of the Namaquas, let him see what the Esquimaux can do in the eating way, in the very interesting narrative of my friend Captain Back, and of other heroes of the pole.

In the evening I went with "oud Jan," Magasee, and three Namaquas into the pass to reconnoitre, and to look out for the best means of dragging the waggon through it. The valley at first was very narrow and rugged, with loose stones and bushes. Pathways cleared through the stones by the feet of wild beasts, led along the course of the river; and here and there, close to these paths, were circular enclosures of loose stones, about three feet high only, behind which the Boschmans had been in the habit of concealing themselves to hurl their lances into the bodies of the rhinoceros and other animals

as they passed. We started steenboks, and saw zebras grazing on a slope before us on our right, and passed over the fresh prints of lions. The valley then opened, and became romantic and beautiful. It was of an oval shape, and three or four miles in extent before it again contracted, and it was full of various species of acacia, standing singly and in groups, whilst the mountains of indurated sandstone which hung over it presented bare cliffs among scattered foliage.

We passed every instant the favourite resting-places of the rhinoceros, whose disposition is so spiteful that it kicks to pieces even what it deposits; and it seems always to return to the same place for the purpose.

We crossed the Chuntop, and looking to the left, I saw, eating its evening meal off a thorn bush, a rhinoceros within one hundred yards of us. I whispered to Jan Buys, and we made ready; but the watchful monster did not charge as we expected, being young, and made off before we had time to *becreep* it. After an hour's progress through this first Valley of the Pass, (the entire length of the Pass is about forty miles,) we

returned towards the outspan place. Two of the men in lagging behind, were pursued close up to us by a couple of old baboons, which had descended from some caves in Mount Michell.

In my absence in the Pass, many of the hunters had resumed the sport on the plain, and two more rhinoceroses were mortally wounded. The people ate apparently ten pounds of flesh each in as many hours; talked of their day's adventures, and how this one had ran off behind rocks or bushes, or how another had got into a tree, for fear of the rhinoceros; and with smoking, and pounding the bones on flat stones to lick the marrow, by drawing the stone across their lips: they were awake all night, made a noise like that in a shoemaker's shop with hammering the bones, and effectually kept off the lions or other nocturnal prowlers.

> "While the grim satyr-faced baboon
> Sat gibbering to the rising moon,
> Or chid with hoarse and angry cry
> The hunters who beneath him lie."

As we had plenty of wild meat for some days, I did not occupy myself next day on the plain in

assisting to destroy wild animals, which we could not have carried off with us. I was very anxious to get through the Pass, to imprint its wild vallies for the first time with a waggon spoor, and to reach the sea as soon as I could, where, at Walvisch Bay, I expected to communicate with a ship of war, which had been kindly promised by Admiral Sir Patrick Campbell, for the assistance of the expedition.

In the morning of the 31st (having no time to lose in mere sport, though the temptation was strong), I mustered forty of the people, and proceeded with them to the left of Mt. Michell, to clear a road for the waggon. We cut down trees, lopped off branches, and removed stones for several hours, till the sun drove us in a fever of heat back to our "lay place." In the afternoon we inspanned, crossed the Chuntop, dragged the waggon down the first valley, again crossed the river, ascended a rugged slope, crossed a neck, and descending again on the other side, found ourselves in another beautiful valley, but of many miles in extent, running east and west, two or three miles broad, and enclosed with lofty

mountains. At sun down, whilst outspanning beside a pool of the Chuntop, there was an alarm of a rhinoceros near the waggon; a few hunters ran to where he was; hunting frocks, jackets, and shoes, were cast off, and leather trousers were rolled up to prevent noise; the rhinoceros was *becrept*, the hunters sat down behind the bushes, long guns were rested on them and presented at the monster, which, unconscious of danger, was quietly eating from a bush, and three balls through the backbone and jaw, stretched the rhinoceros kicking in the dust—

"Procumbit humi bos."

In the night the dogs saved us from being run over by a rhinoceros, which was passing right through our lairs on its way to the water, but which, crashing through the bushes, was turned off by our watchful guardians. Next morning we proceeded with sharpened knives to cut up our mighty prize. The gastronomic powers of my people were so extraordinary that it seemed a rhinoceros only could satisfy them.

The huge grey and mud-covered mass of flesh

we now dissected, and whose hide we carefully removed and preserved, was a female, with two perfect horns of equal length, and she measured twelve and a half feet including the tail; inside we found a fœtus the size of a pig a month old. Aaron and his assistant butchers made slashing work, and we were soon in the midst of a great shamble; flesh, flesh was on every side, and the apparently insatiable stomachs of the Namaquas were at last content.

I went on in the afternoon with the head men, to reconnoitre our way in advance. We went west for some miles, and still following the course of the Chuntop, we turned north, and rode at a walk altogether eight miles. I found the passage for the waggon tolerably clear. It was quite beautiful—the great valley of the Chuntop: the mountains were between two and three thousand feet high, and of various colours and fantastic outline; smooth cliffs were on their faces, marked with white streaks, as if occasionally cataracts dashed over them. We saw some caves high up on some of the mountains, and the footmarks of a few Boschmans, but we saw no people. There

was an impressive air of solitude in this part of the Pass, and an awful silence, interrupted occasionally by the strange cry, as of a lamb, of the large blue and long-tailed colly.

We returned in safety, and passed the evening beside the people.

"Tell me a rhinoceros story," said I to oud Jan, the best story-teller of the party, and handing him at the same time a well filled stone pipe, "we have had enough of lions for a time, now let us discourse about even a greater than a lion, the black rhinoceros."

Jan, as was the custom in the land, gave the pipe to Saul, the Little Damara, to light (by which practice boys early acquire the bad habit of smoking), and then, after a few satisfactory whiffs, he commenced.

"Once on a time my father took his sons out to hunt; he only had a gun, and we had assegaes and knives. At first we were very unsuccessful; we found nothing till the second day; we were very hungry, when we came on a rhinoceros. The old man soon wounded it in the leg, and he then told us to throw stones at it, to make the

wound worse. You know how Namaquas can throw stones; so we crept upon the rhinoceros, followed it, and threw stones with such effect, that at last it lay down from pain. I being armed with a knife, then approached it from behind, and commenced to hamstring it, while my elder brother, who is now dead, Cobus, remarkable for two strange rings round his eyes, tried to climb over the back of the rhinoceros to thrust his lance into its shoulder (it would have been very dangerous to have gone up to its shoulder on foot); he had just begun to climb, when the rhinoceros rose suddenly with a terrible blast or snort, and we all ran off as fast as we could to a tree, and there held a consultation about our further proceedings.

"We had not been long at the tree, when the rhinoceros observing where we were, rushed towards us with his horns at first in the air, and then as he came near, he tore up the ground with them. We scattered ourselves before him, when Cobus getting in a passion, stopped short in his flight, called the rhinoceros an ugly name, and turned and faced it. The rhinoceros, asto-

nished at this unexpected manœuvre, also stopped and stared at Cobus, who then commenced calling out loudly and abusing the monster; it now seemed to be seized with fear, for it sidled off, when Cobus, who had a heart like a lion's and was as active as an ape, immediately pursued the rhinoceros, seized the tail, sprung with its assistance on its back, rode it well, and plunging his assegae deep into its shoulder, it fell, and was despatched by the rest of us. Hungry men can do extraordinary things—and this is a true story."

"I do not doubt it in the least," I said, "for I know that all the Buys have first-rate courage."

We retired to rest; but were roused in the middle of the night by a savage buffalo, which came from the eastern or upper part of the Valley, and attempted to run through us whilst asleep on the ground; but the ever watchful and faithful dogs turned it off also, and it was no more seen.

I had already picked up in the Pass the head and horns of a buffalo, which last, curved in a

semicircle over the eyes, are very remarkable for meeting at the roots, and lying like a mass of rock over the forehead of this fierce and malevolent animal. Of greater size and strength than an ox, its body thinly covered with black hair, with a bristly beard about its mouth, its withers rising in a ridge, and with a short tail, the South African buffalo lurks in the thickets, and rushes out without previous warning on the passing hunter, and gores him to death. Some of the people had soles made of its enduring hide. I knew a man in Caffer land, a Hottentot hunter, Barber by name, who has gone up alone to a wild buffalo in a bush, and killed it with his assegae.

On the 2nd of April, we continued our progress through the Pass, first travelled west and then north, crossed the Chuntop three times, and after four hours, ascended a hill to the right, to cut off an angle of the river. We then went over some high ground among the mountains, passed some remarkable trees, eight feet high only, but six and a half feet in girth; the bark smooth and silvery, and the leaves oval. We

descended again, after some very rough shakings for the waggon, and outspanned, after two and a half hours of the mountain road, on the banks of the Chuntop, where I was agreeably surprised by finding many lofty fig-trees, fifty or sixty feet high, and covered with ripe fruit, growing along the course of the stream.

The stems of these trees were thick, numerous, rather tortuous, and covered with a pale shining bark; the leaves were entire, like those of the *ficus religiosa*, and unlike those of the fig-tree of gardens, divided into three parts; the fruit was of the size of a Smyrna fig, and was very palateable; though I warned the people against indulging their appetites, for I was afraid of their eating unripe fruit, and thereby producing dysentery.

On the following day, Elliot shot a dog-faced baboon, five feet high; and four hours more along the river and over a plain, freed us entirely from the Poort, which we were very glad of, for the labour we had undergone in getting the waggon through was very great, accompanied with the constant fear of seeing it shivered to pieces on

the broken ground it traversed; for it was more unmanageable than before, being now loaded with a rhinoceros' hide.

In looking back towards the Pass of the Bull's Mouth from the north, its savage aspect was very striking. The deep red precipices on either side seemed to enclose mysterious recesses full of danger from lurking Boschmans, lions, rhinoceroses, and buffaloes, whilst the conical summits of the mountain range rose high in the air, their sides deeply wrinkled with the water-worn furrows of ages.

I named two of the mountain peaks after my valued friends Dr. John Murray. Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, and principal Medical Officer, Cape of Good Hope; and Mr. George Thompson, the author of Eight Years in South Africa.

We discovered the traces of Boschmans, and set out in pursuit to catch them, to be our guides in advance. After a short time we secured a young man and a young woman, both very handsome! The man wore round his neck, attached to leather strings, a couple of pieces of ivory like paper folders, intended for eating a new fruit

called 'Naras, which we had not yet seen. On his right arm, above the wrist, were many rings made of the hide of rhinoceroses, lions, kudus, and other wild animals, and worn as trophies; amongst them were distributed some teeth of the hyena apparently; and over his little apron, in front, was a disc of stiff leather, about three inches in diameter, and edged with iron, which looked like a miniature shield. He was armed in the usual manner, with bows, arrows, and lance. The young woman had a dangling bunch of red seed at the back of her head; she wore also the ivory scoops, and some leather rings on the left arm, also the common skin petticoat and fringe.

The Circassians, to defend their right arm, and to make it heavier in striking with the sword, wear a steel armlet; the Boschman, to make his arm heavier for throwing the assegae, wears his trophy rings.

The Boschmans having been freed from alarm by the grand succedaneum, the pipe, led us towards the river, where, beside some noble fig trees, in a hole in the bank, sat about a dozen

more of the tribe, men, women, and children, eating figs and roasted locusts, whilst the flesh of a young giraffe hung on a bush opposite the den.

The water was in a deep hole under a wall in the bed of the river, and the place where we now outspanned is called Ababies, or Calabash Kraal. The Boschmans here saw three new things, white men, horses, and a waggon. Of white men, they thought that they were not particularly handsome, but, I fear, "rather the contrary;" that is, we were thought to have been flayed! My horses, they imagined were a sort of ox without horns, and said they supposed they would eat very well; the waggon they believed at first was alive, and afterwards, that it was one of the strange white things (ships) which had come out of the sea, and was now travelling over the land.

The Boschmans in the neighbourhood of the Great River even, used lately to be very much afraid of waggons: thus, Mr. Schmelen's people once caught a Boschman, and he told them that the first time he and his people saw the missionary's waggon they ran away from it for a

whole night, thinking it was some terrible monster, and that they always jumped over its spoor, and would not touch the wheel tracks on any account.

On another occasion, Mr. Schmelen sent out an old waggon with a hunting party, when one of the fore wheels was broken, and the waggon remained standing in the field for two months, at the end of which time a Boschman came to Mr. Schmelen's place, and said that he had seen the missionary's *pack ox* standing in the field for a long time, with a broken leg; and that as he did not observe that it ate any grass, he was afraid that it would soon die of hunger if it was not taken away!

I distributed small presents among the Boschmans of Ababies, and they seemed to put perfect confidence in us, and promised to show us, for a few beads and sticks of tobacco, certain watering places among the hills, known only to themselves, and lying between us and the Kuisip (or Root) river, for we had yet nearly three days journey to the river, and our road lay over an arid desert of sand, without any watering place

with which Aaron, the chief guide, was acquainted.

This old animal, a tall and thin Bastaard, with a little flat hat like a crow's nest, and a long-backed leathern jacket, afforded a good deal of amusement to the people, from his appearance and habits. I said before he was a ten pound man as to appetite, and he was dirty and useless as he was voracious; his face had not been washed since we left Tuais; perhaps that the mud on it might preserve his complexion. His leather crackers hung like a bag between his legs, and so as to impede him in getting on his ox; and it was said, that if he ever went to the Cape, the first smith who saw him would strip him to make a pair of bellows of his trowsers. Once on his ox, he never got off either to hunt, to walk, to pack an ox, or to assist the waggon, but with a skin bag of dried meat behind him, he lingered behind and ate ever and anon during the march, and at the end of it he sat down by the flesh pot.

To prevent a repetition of the proceedings at the Great Fountain which had annoyed me so much, I told the men of the Boschmans to come

with their families, at night, and to sleep within sight of me, and that I would prevent their women being troubled by the Namaquas, as they might be, if they remained under the bank of the Chuntop. To my exceeding surprise, imbued as I was with notions of Oriental jealousy, the Boschmans said, "Take the women; the people may do with them as they please; what else is the use of them?" Seeing the Boschmans' feeling on this point (beasts could not have been worse) I now thought that the occurrences at the Great Fountain were not of so serious or disgraceful a nature as I had at first imagined they were.

Can any state of society be considered more low and brutal, than that in which promiscuous intercourse is viewed with the most perfect indifference, where it is not only practised but spoken of without any shame or compunction! Some rave about the glorious liberty of the savage state, and about the innocence of the children of nature, and say that it is chiefly by the white men that they become corrupt. The Boschmans of Ababies had never seen white

men before, they were far removed from the influence of Europeans; the only thing they had ever seen of them were their ships, from the hills skirting the ocean, and yet observe what innocent notions they had!

Surely, all the restraints of civilized life are to be preferred to the licentious and shameless habits of the savage, and to such a state of moral degradation as was found to exist among the Boschmans with whom we had now to deal. Much need have these degraded beings to be taught better things; and though there might have been some excuse for their bartering their property in their wives and daughters for food, when they were starving, yet our Ababies acquaintances had not even this excuse, for they were well supplied with food, and were all in good case.

The locust clouds were about us again, and my people got sacksful of locusts from the Boschmans. The insects are caught at night by making circles of fire, within which the locusts fall; their legs and wings are then pulled off, and they are roasted and ground up fine. In the evening the Namaquas played at Hous in the bed of the river,

squabbled over the game as usual, and skins being spread, they ate roasted locusts by handsful. I tasted them also, and they were sharp and bitter to my palate; it appeared like eating snuff. They would doubtless support life *at a pinch.* In the song of the wild Boschman he says,

> "I plant no herbs nor pleasant fruits,
> I toil not for my cheer,
> The desert yields me juicy roots,
> And herds of bounding deer.
>
> "Yea, even the wasting locusts'-swarm,
> Which mighty nations dread,
> To me nor terror brings nor harm,
> I make of them my bread."

I asked the Boschmans to dance, at sundown, by the light of a large fire, and they readily consented. The women drew up in line opposite the fire, and began, in a low voice to sing *ei oh! ei oh!* Clapping the hands at *oh!* they sang louder, when two of the men, stamping the ground for some time with one foot, and then changing for the other, circled in front of the women, and sang *oh, wawaho,* as an accompaniment, and their hands supported the body, which was occasionally twisted about; they also pointed at

one of the women with their jackal's tail *handkerchief*, when she came away from the rest, stamped like the men, clapped her hands, and seemed to try and escape from them, whilst they continued to stamp and follow her round the fire. Several of the young Namaquas, excited by the wild strains, joined in the dance, threw their bodies into all sorts of contortions, and a scene of dust and noise ensued.

Not seeing the long nose of my Portuguese youth, Antonio, which was usually poked into any place where there was play going on, I inquired if he had come back from shooting: nobody had seen him since three in the afternoon, when he had been noticed some distance down the river, with his gun, and alone. I had repeatedly cautioned my Europeans never to go any distance from the outspan place without one or two Namaquas with them, in order that they might easily find their way back again, and for their greater security in every respect. I was very desirous that no accident should happen to the poor fellows who had trusted themselves with me so far; and, besides, it was my duty to care

for them, in sickness or in health, in every possible manner.

Now it appeared that Antonio had left the Namaquas with whom he had gone out after midday, and had evidently lost himself, or some worse accident had happened to him. The dance was therefore immediately broken up, and parties went along the river for some distance, shouting and discharging guns; several fires too were made; but no tidings were heard of him all night. In the morning I mounted a horse and rode in the direction where he was last seen, extending the people across the country to "cut his spoor," and expecting to find his lifeless remains. But, at a distance of two miles from the waggon we saw him approaching us; and it turned out, that though we were on an open plain, with scattered trees only along the river, he had, as some other Europeans would also have done, noticed the outspan so little that he had gone past it the previous afternoon, and wandering about looking for the waggon down the river, it fell dark, and seeing two of our fires at a distance, which he mistook for the eyes of a

lion glaring at him, he had got up into a fig tree, to a branch of which he tied himself with his sash, and thus remained all night; but he could get little sleep in consequence of the cold, and had not heard our guns or shouting.

Next, in looking for our Boschman guides, we found, to our vexation, that the whole party had fled the moment the firing began as signals for Antonio. They imagined that they were about to be killed (as we afterwards learned), and accordingly took to the mountains, men, women, and children, leaving their giraffe's flesh on the bush, their locust sacks, jackals' skins, sandals, wooden hand troughs for drinking out of—in short, every thing they had except what was on them, and their arms, in the extremity of their terror: and now we experienced the painful consequences of carelessness.

CHAPTER II.

An unpleasant Prospect—Our drinking Water—Leave Ababies—A false Report—A dry Outspan—State of the Horses—A Poison Sucker—Mount Tans—The very Desert—People and Cattle attempt to reach the Water—The Bird of the Desert—Melancholy Anticipations—Send off the White Men—A Dream—Some Relief—News of the People—Abandon the Waggon—Death of a Faithful Servant—Descend into the Devil's Den—Adventure of the White Men—The last Horse Dies—The River Kuisip—A Consultation—Excellent conduct of the Headmen of the Namaquas—Missionary Influence—A disagreeable Discovery—Story of a Boschman and a Lion.

THE prospect before us was now a most unpleasant one, we were at the last watering place for nearly sixty miles; the horses and oxen were thin and weak with their long previous journey, the weather was very hot, and a desert of heavy sand lay between us and the Kuisip river, and whether there was water in it or not at the point where we should first see it, we were not aware. Still we could not stop where

we were, or go back; we must make a desperate effort to reach the Kuisip or perish in the attempt.

"Vestigia nulla retrorsum."

There was no retreating. If the Boschmans had not deserted us, we should have crossed the barren waste comfortably enough, for both men and cattle might have drank half way from holes in a rock, but where to look for these now, we were quite at a loss.

On the 4th of April, I found the Namaquas washing clothes, and some their bodies, in the only drinking place we had at Ababies. I am not very nice, but this was *too much.* However, I was now compelled to keep my temper, and to content myself with reproving the people for their excessive thoughtlessness. The oxen came late at night from the upper part of the river. I asked the cattle guards if they had been at the water with the beasts, and they said they had; but next day, when it was too late, I found out that the cattle had not been taken to the water at all, and early on the morning of the 5th, we left with thirsty oxen.

Our course was north-west, whilst the Chuntop left us, and inclined to the west to disappear in the sand before it reached the ocean. The waggon moved slowly along, but frequently stuck fast, and it was most painful to be obliged to use the whip to the unfortunate cattle. After five hours we got to a dry and nameless river, and most of the Namaquas dispersed to look for water but found none—thermometer 90°.

A report was now brought me that some Boschmans were seen crossing the plain before us, I immediately got on a horse and rode as fast as the feeble animal could carry me for two miles (forgetting all about poisoned arrows) till I ascertained that the supposed Boschmans were Henrick Buys and his gun carrier on the spoor of wild horses, and thus our hopes of finding guides to the water were again baffled.

I sat down for sometime on a hill, and waited till the waggon and pack-oxen came on, and though I saw a large flock of springboks below me, no one was after them; water, not flesh, was our only desire; the train, with two or three drivers, passed on. I saw a few long-

legged plovers moving about, and after five more hours, we halted at half-past eleven at night in a valley of grass between low hills. The poor oxen were so knocked up with the heavy sands they had passed, with the heat of the day, and with thirst, that they could not touch a blade of the dry pasture, amongst which flights of locusts lay nestled for the night, here and there, and chirrupped like young sparrows. I distributed all the water I could spare from the waggon among the people; for with their usual improvidence, the Namaquas had converted the goats skins, I had given them to carry water for themselves, into clothes bags, and now, consequently, they were reduced to extremity. I lay down thinking that to-morrow night most of the party are to perish.

Long before dawn, I was awoke from an uneasy sleep by Aaron the guide calling out to the people, "*Keiree! Keiree!* Rise! Rise! the sands are heavy, and the Kuisip is far off." I never got up with more uncomfortable thoughts. I rode to prevent the thirst as much as possible, but my horses neither answered

whip nor spur; they were quite dull and very much knocked up, particularly the grey, poor Old Night, for whom I as well as my people entertained a great regard. I first made his acquaintance during the Caffer war of 1835, and up to this day he was always lively and alert. But my horses had a bad groom in Magasee, also first seen in Caffer land. I thought, from his previous life among the Caffers, that he would have been my best hand on the road and in the bush, but he turned out the black sheep of the party, a lazy, worthless fellow, who neglected his horses, and whose only enjoyment was sitting at the fire talking with old Aaron, "par nobile fratrum," pretending to preach after the manner of a missionary; and most strange to say, collecting the tobacco oil (a deadly poison) from his own and other pipes that he might suck it. This powerful narcotic made him, perhaps, more indolent than he would otherwise have been.

We moved slowly on, that is, the headmen and my own people with the waggon and pack-oxen, for the rest set off in advance in quest of water, and disappeared. Some hills showed

themselves on our left, and far in the distance on our right, twenty-five miles at least, rose a great tabular mountain called Tans, or the screen, for it shuts in all the lesser mountains and hills near it; on each side of Tans extended black mountain chains.

Grey sand and gravel were around us on every side, and single blades of grass waved with the hot wind on the bare and burning face of the desert. The silence was deep and profound, for not a bird or insect was to be seen or heard. The poor cattle halting every few minutes, were ready to drop with heat and thirst, and tried in vain to bellow. After accomplishing a distance of about twelve miles slowly and painfully, the sand deepened so much that we could get the waggon on no further, and therefore we outspanned; and as the only chance of saving the horses and cattle, I sent the whole of them off under oud Jan, after the people who had gone towards the river, and remained myself by the waggon with Kuisip, Choubib, Henrick Buys, and my white men. We had with us a few quarts of water to support us in this

" Region of drought, where no river glides,
Nor rippling brook with osier sides,
Where sedgy pool nor bubbling fount,
Nor bee, nor cloud, nor misty mount
Appears to soothe the aching eye:
But barren earth and burning sky,
And the blank horizon round and round
Spread—void of living sight or sound."

In the afternoon, whilst sitting under the shade of the waggon, which appeared in the midst of the desert of Tans like a ship cast away far at sea on a reef, we were visited by a singular little bird the colour of sand, and about the size of a lark, which ran round us apparently examining the strange visitants of the waste. One's desire of collecting was suppressed by the sight of this kindly and curious visitor. In the evening we went to the nearest sand-hill to the west, and hunted about for roots of shrubs and grass to make a fire, and collected sufficient to roast small pieces of meat for our supper. Expecting the oxen to come to us on the morrow, and placing our entire trust in Providence, we lay down at night and slept without being disturbed, though afterwards we heard that Boschmans were about us during the hours of darkness.

The whole of the next day we looked in vain for the oxen, we saw no signs of them, nor of any of the people; in the evening a gemsbok was tracked and shot about a mile from the waggon. We were now impressed with the belief that no water had been found in the Kuisip, where the people first reached it under a black mount which we saw in the distance to the north, and which I named after the well-known secretary of the Admiralty, Sir John Barrow (the distinguished South African Traveller, and chief promoter of Polar Expeditions); and that they being unable to help us, had either gone far down the river towards the sea in search of pools—or that they had miserably perished.

No more water remained with us than barely sufficient to support the life of two men for one day, and, as I felt myself bound "to stay by the ship" to the last, I told the three Namaqua headmen, that I intended sending away my white men to-morrow morning, to give them a chance of saving their lives, and that I intended (if no help came) to remain by the waggon till the water was expended, and if one of the Na-

maquas was willing to stay with me, to assist me in following the spoor of game to lead us to the water, which we might find about Mount Tans, distant eight or nine hours from us, I should be very glad.

After a consultation, it was arranged that Choubib should stay with me, and Kuisip, Henrick Buys, and my four white followers, in the meantime should leave us to shift for themselves, and in the hope of meeting again; but whether that would ever take place was very problematical. I comforted the people the best way I could, by telling them it was not unlikely the men who had left us were resting the oxen for a day at the water, before they returned with them to our assistance at the waggon; that to-morrow, when Kuisip and the others should leave me to look for water, and should happen to fall in with natives, their guns would sufficiently protect them; and that they must not now give way to despair, but exert themselves to the last.

"Ne cede malis, sed contra."

Secretly, however, I thought that our situation was most desperate. I also asked myself, "what

great sin have I committed, that we are now left to perish, and that through my endeavour to perform an extensive journey on the African continent, so many poor people have been led to destruction—what have I done to occasion so much misery?—little hope there is now of ever seeing home and friends again—our fate is sealed in the parched and trackless desert of Tans."

Having all eaten a little biscuit soaked in water (about the last of both we had), we lay down to repose for a few hours beside the waggon wheels. "Another night of misery," said one of the white men to his comrade; and so it was, for great thirst and anxiety made it so. In an uneasy sleep, I dreamt that I saw a person spilling water on the ground, and that I ran up to him and fought with him for doing so.

At one in the morning of the 7th April, I got up and sent off the people, with Henrick Buys, carrying only their duffle jackets and arms, and accompanied by my poor dogs. Kuisip, the excellent chief, whom I always found very quiet and obliging, declared that he would not leave me, but would stay with Choubib and myself, till

we also should abandon the waggon on the following morning, if no help came to us.

We tried to sleep again, and at sunrise, we three deserted mortals, were awoke by the barking of a Namaqua dog, which had joined us, and on looking up we saw two black objects approaching; thinking they were Boschmans, we made ready to fire, if their appearance was suspicious, but they came straight to the waggon without hesitation, and turned out to be two Damara men (slaves under the Namaquas), who had been despatched by Jan Buys with a small supply of water for us in the stomach of a sheep, and in the pericardium of a rhinoceros. We partook of this thankfully and eagerly, and then asked the news.

They said that the distance to the water was great, and that they had set out yesterday morning at sunrise, and had only reached us now;—that there were several high sand-hills between us and the river, and that it was impossible the waggon could get over even the first of them. It also now appeared that many of the people had nearly perished on the 6th. A number of

them had fallen down one after another among the sand-hills, and with their skins dry, their eyes bloodshot, a contraction of the throat, and their mouth covered with a crust, they lay helpless and dying. Some cried like children for help; some were nearly blind; and others, mad with thirst and the heat of the sand, had asked their companions to make a hole and bury them, for that they were dying, and could not go any further. That Jan Buys and the stronger of the party had gone on to the Kuisip with the cattle, which had then been three days without a drop of water. That the people and cattle, when they saw the water in the river below them, ran down as if they had been crazed, and cutting their legs on the rocks, they scrambled down a steep precipice to reach the bed of the river, and throwing themselves into the water, they lay in it, and drank till the water ran out of their mouths again; and that after this excess, some of them had been attacked with a sort of cholera. That Jan had then returned with skins of water and pack-oxen to carry off those who had sunk down in a dying state among the sand-hills, and had

saved them all! This last intelligence was very gratifying.

The Damaras having rested, I despatched them to the dead gemsbok near us, to get the water from its stomach. About mid-day we descried a dark mass descending a distant sand hill, and as it came nearer we found it to be people and cattle; shortly after the worthy oud Jan reached us; but he and the rest were low and dull. Jan confirmed the report about the impracticability of getting the waggon to the Kuisip, on account of the heavy sand hills and precipices about the river; said that though all the people at the river were alive, in the meantime, some of them might yet die from what they had suffered from thirst and fatigue, and from the way they had drunk water; that some of the oxen had fallen down the crags at the Kuisip, and had broken their backs; that some of the dogs were dead, and some of the sheep lost; that my horse Night was dead, and that England was dying; and that Magasee their groom had lost his riding ox and all his

clothes, and was also nearly dead. Finally, Jan said that he had not seen anything of his brother Henrick or of the white men!

Henrick, the stalwart driver, inspanned his oxen; the waggon was dragged towards the river for three hours, when it "brought up," in the evening, at the first sand-hill. It was now, I thought, time to leave the waggon to the tender mercies of the wild people, who could not be far from us: I accordingly stripped off my hunting frock and worked hard for an hour among our stores; and, with the assistance of the people, I packed the ammunition, clothes, bird skins, &c., on pack oxen, leaving the rhinoceros' hide and whatever else could be best spared.

I now felt as if I were abandoning the wreck of my vessel, to which, as in duty bound, I had stuck as long as there remained a chance of saving it; and I thought that I should soon see it, from a distance, in flames, for the sake of the iron work which was about it. I cast a last look at our craft, with its tent sail died deep red for concealment, which was no longer possible on the

bare sands; and I then followed the people and pack oxen up the sand-hill. Another melancholy sight now presented itself: poor Night, with apparently a number of dark Boschmans about him; but they turned out to be immense black vultures, which had already committed sad havoc on the head and stomach of my old and faithful servant.

We passed over no less than seven sand-hills, which were very steep. On the north side, and on their summits, were tufts of stick grass. Half way we met some of the Namaquas with a supply of water in the stomach of another gemsbok, and of which we gladly drank. After seven miles ride in the dark, we found ourselves on the brink of a precipice, and we looked down into a black yawning gulf, at the bottom of which, and about six hundred feet below us, glimmered a fire. This was in the bed of the Kuisip. The Namaqua head men wished me to sleep where we were, but I was so anxious about the fate of the white men, and Henrick Buys, that I resolved to make my way to the fire below.

Accordingly, staff in hand, and guided by oud Jan, I scrambled and slid down by a narrow, broken, and dangerous path, fit only for goats or baboons, the precipitous descent to the Kuisip. Jan being stout, got some heavy falls. When half way down, the people hearing our voices, set fire to a dry tree, to light us on our perilous way, and they were then seen running about in the red glare like demons in the devil's den—the name we gave this hole.

Elliot and Magasee soon after joined me to assist me down, and at the bottom I was very glad to find Henrick Buys, and Taylor, Robert, and Antonio, all alive, but lying down and very much exhausted. They said their joints were stiff with their walk in the night through the sands; and that with drinking so much water, in which they could not help indulging, their stomachs were quite out of order, and that they could eat nothing. I asked them how they fared after they left the waggon; they said they had lost one another in the dark, had wandered about, and had laid down in the sand-hills till sunrise,

and in the extremity of their thirst they had been forced to resort to the last means to try and alleviate it, but that this had increased it.

Most of the bullocks were recovering, but the horse England which was below, was standing under a rock with some untasted grass before him. I lay down near him, and in the morning, when I awoke, not seeing him, I went up the deep and fearful looking bed of the river, enclosed with frowning precipices, in search of him, but he was nowhere to be seen. On returning to my kaross I found him stretched out dead, within a few feet where I had lain.

The river had not ran for some time, but in its bed were long pools of water, separated by sand and gravel banks. There were two or three thorn trees near the water, and on the shelf on which we lay, under a black and lofty cliff. The bed of the river was here so deep and narrow, that the sun was up for a long time before its rays could reach our den. Looking up and down the river for the short distance we could see for the sudden turnings, it was enclosed by the same

steep crags, whilst black and bare above us rose Mount Barrow.

I went up and down the precipice I had descended the previous evening, and found it to be composed of mica slate, the glare from the shining particles of which was very disagreeable: I was very thankful I had escaped with a whole neck. I collected the baggage left here and there at the commencement of the descent; ate a part of a broken-backed ox; and then set off to visit the waggon for the last time, with some people to bring away a few more stores. In the evening I returned to the fire.

A deep consultation now took place among the head men of the Namaquas, about future arrangements. They saw I was resolved to reach the sea at any sacrifice or risk, and they were well aware of the value of the abandoned waggon, when, at last, Jan Buys, of his own accord, proposed that he should endeavour to save the waggon, and the property left in it, by going back with it towards the Orange river; and that, after a time, if he heard no more of me, he should hand it over

to Mr. Schmelen, at Komakas. I was greatly obliged by this very kind proposal of Jan's, which afforded the only prospect of my ever seeing the waggon again, though, of course, there were a great many chances against my living to recover it in any way. I promised Jan and Henrick Buys two new guns for large game (the most acceptable present I could make them) for their great assistance to me; and which guns I should send them from the Cape, if I ever reached it myself again; and I inquired what more they desired—a few beads, shirts, and handkerchiefs, was all they asked.

Without the help I had already received from the Namaqua head men, and particularly from Jan Buys, with his span of powerful oxen for the waggon, I could not have reached, at least, nearly so easily as I did, the point I had now attained beyond the Tropic of Capricorn. I had no claim on these men for help or assistance; they were free and independent in their native land, and owed no allegiance to any superior. I had come amongst them "a stranger and a pilgrim," with a few attendants, and no display of

any force to intimidate them, or of wealth to tempt their cupidity, or to induce them to expect great rewards for any services they might render me, and yet, seeing that I placed entire confidence in them, notwithstanding the evil reports of the people of the chief Abram, and knowing what help I stood in need of, they generously assisted me to the utmost of their power—Choubib, by becoming my interpreter; Kuisip, by bringing an escort to defend me; Jan Buys, with the use of his best oxen; and Henrick, showing where and how game could be killed to support the expedition.

I must not here omit to give all due credit to the salutary influence of the Rev. Mr. Schmelen over these men's minds, for I believe all of them had lived with him some time or other, and had, doubtless, benefited by the instruction and tuition of that excellent missionary. To missionary influence, then, I may say, that I now (through the grace of Providence) owed my life and that of the people with me. May that blessed influence be more and more diffused by instruments such as Mr. Schmelen is, a man not

bigotted to sect or party, or desirous of power, but one with zeal tempered by a thorough knowledge of man in his barbarous state, seeking not his own honour, but the good of his benighted brethren, and making always every allowance for their frailties.

On the 10th of April Jan Buys left me with my waggon oxen and his own, twenty-five in all, and ten men, to endeavour to retrace his steps through the Pass of the Bull's Mouth (which he had seen for the first time with me) and to reach his place near the Orange river with the waggon. I was very sorry to lose his company; for though uneducated he had very good sense, was very ready to communicate, and was agreeable withal. As I had no companion, and was obliged to preserve a certain distance with my people, not from pride, which would have been contemptible, but for the sake of upholding discipline, I used to be much amused in listening to the long stories of Jan Buys.

But I was rather anxious about the safety of Jan and his men on their return journey, owing to a discovery which I now made. When the

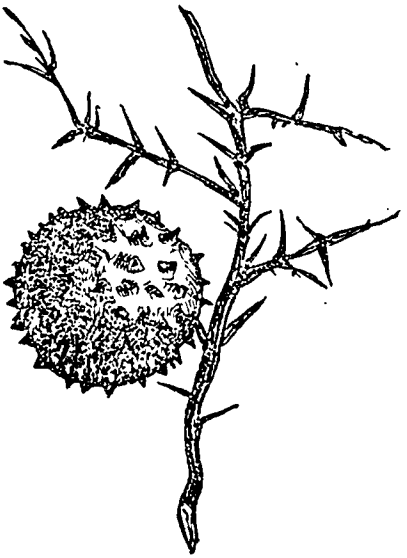
Boschmans fled from Ababies leaving their little property behind them, I requested the headmen of the Namaquas, to caution their people against taking away or injuring a single article belonging to the Boschmans, and I thought that the jackals' skins, which are of some value in the land, for clothing, and the other things had been left untouched; when I now found, to my disagreeable surprise, my Namaqua escort busily engaged in making fur caps and other articles of dress from the Boschmans' skins, which they had concealed from me till we had left the desert of 'Tans between us and Ababies. Now, the Boschmans are sometimes in the habit of poisoning water for wild animals or for *men*, when they want to gratify their revenge, and I was afraid that the water at Ababies might be prepared for Jan, when the Boschmans, from their mountain fastnesses, should note the approach of the waggon.

In the sequel what befell Jan after he left me shall be disclosed.

As this chapter on the escape of the expedition from a painful death, has been, I fear, rather a

tiresome one, let us now finish it with a Namaqua story.

A Boschman was, on one occasion, following a troop of zebras, and had just succeeded in wounding one with his arrows, when a lion sprang out from a thicket opposite, and showed every inclination to dispute the prize with him. The Boschman being near a convenient tree, threw down his arms, and climbed for safety to an upper branch. The lion allowing the wounded zebra to pass on, now turned his whole attention towards the Boschman, and walking round and round the tree, he ever and anon growled and looked up at the Boschman. At length the lion lay down at the foot of the tree and kept watch all night. Towards morning sleep overcame the hitherto wakeful Boschman, and he dreamt that he had fallen into the lion's mouth—starting from the effects of his dream, he lost his seat, and falling from the branch he alighted heavily on the lion, on which the monster, thus enexpectedly saluted, ran off with a loud roar; and the Boschman also taking to his heels in a different direction, returned in safety to "his anxious parents."



CHAPTER III.

Fatigues, how supported—Moses—How to pack an Ox—Proceed down the Kuisip—A Heavenly Prospect—Story of a Rhinoceros Hunt—A Catastrophe—Our Calculations upset—The Water again fails us—Dreadful Anticipations—The Dubbee Boom—Our Prospects brighten—Repose—Sharp Appetites and Tough Morsels—A Glutton circumvented—Traces of Strangers—Mount Hamilton—Noise of the Breakers—The Expedition in the greatest Distress—Discover the New Fruit 'Naras—Our Wants are supplied—A Comparison—Tired Travellers—The Red Bank—Hunt for Natives—Catch two Spies—Their News of Ships, of the Damaras, and of themselves—The Author ingratiates himself with a Lady—Curious Huts—Reach the Sea at Walvisch Bay.

We had undergone heat, thirst, and much

hard work during the last few days, and it was to be supposed, that we should now suffer from the effects of these causes of exhaustion, but in desperate circumstances, and when there is a great necessity for exertion, the mind sustains the body, so that unusual strength seemed to have been supplied to us, and I felt after I had descended for the last time to the Den to make the people bring up the cattle, that with a good bath in a pool, I was as fresh as I had been before leaving Ababies.

My favourite dog Moses (an odd name given him by the people) was not so easily restored to his accustomed condition, but stretching his handsome form, shaggy with black and white hair, by the side of the water, he lay incapable of doing more than looking up in my face piteously, whilst his eyes were glazing in death, occasioned from excessive drinking after exhaustion. I was forced to leave the poor animal to his fate with the carcase of England beside him, and cutting off the long tail of the horse as a remembrance of the Devil's Den, I scrambled up the precipice.

We had about fourteen oxen now to pack, and this work was therefore rather heavy; but by distributing people to the different packages, we got under weigh in about an hour. There were only seven pack saddles from which leather cases hung, attached by straps to iron hooks; and the oxen which had no saddles, were packed in the Namaqua manner; that is, a boy held their heads by the thong of the nose stick; two or three sheep skins with the wool on them, were placed on their backs, by two men standing one on each side of the ox, a few turns of a riem or stout thong of raw hide (twenty-one yards long) were taken round the skins, and then against the sides of the ox were placed the packages, which were secured very tightly with the remainder of the riem, by the men placing their knees against the ox, and drawing the riem so tight that the poor oxen looked, after the packing was completed, as if they would be cut in two behind the fore legs; but "custom is second nature," and this tight lacing did not hurt them.

Our course was now along the Kuisip towards the sea, and on the evening of the 10th April,

we packed off by moonlight, after eight miles journey over the sand hills of the south bank of the river.

Next day we accomplished the same distance only, as we were detained by a butchering operation of old Aaron. High cliffs still confined the bed of the river, and at a place where they were less precipitous, the oxen got down to drink. On the 12th, after twenty miles, we got a glimpse of heaven (as it were) in the river's bed below. Many acacias of pale foliage flung their arms over high grass of deep green, growing beside large pools of clear water; the path leading to this place of abundance was steep and rugged, but we managed to zig-zag down it, with the loss of another ox, which became incurably lame, from tearing off the claw or spurious hoof of one foot. It was killed, and the people having plenty of flesh for the nonce, made merry under the trees, eating, and drinking good water, and smoking. The oxen too once more got a good belly-full of capital grass.

The remains of a dead rhinoceros were found near us, which seemed to have been surprised

by the sudden rising of the river and drowned. I am here reminded of a catastrophe which happened at a rhinoceros hunt, at which Henrick Buys assisted, and, as we stretch ourselves comfortably by the fire in the evening, the men and cattle lying refreshed beside us, after their late struggles and privations, we may as well here tell our story—

"Dulce est disserere in loco."

Henrick Buys was in the field hunting springboks, and having wounded one in the leg, he followed it on the spoor with two or three other men in company. They were coming up with the game, when they crossed the fresh track of a rhinoceros, and shortly afterwards saw a large black male in a bush. Henrick immediately "becrept" him, and with his long elephant rifle he inflicted a severe wound on his fore leg. The rhinoceros charged, the men fled, and the monster singling one of them out, closely pursued him, when the man stopping short, whilst the horn of the rhinoceros was ploughing up the ground at his heels, and dexterously jumping to

one side, the rhinoceros missed him and passed in full career, and before the brute could recover himself and change his course, the whole of the party had got up into trees, whilst the limping rhinoceros was trying in vain to hunt them out by the smell.

The Bugbear in Jack and the Beanstalk, according to our Scotch edition of the story, says,

> " Snouk but and snouk ben,
> I find the smell of earthly men;"

and so now seemed the limping rhinoceros to *snouk* or hunt about like a dog for his victims. One of the men, named Arasap, and armed with an assegae, said to his comrades, " Why are we all here doing nothing—shoot! shoot!"

" Well," said Henrick, " if you are in a hurry to shoot without waiting for the proper time, here is my powder-horn and ball-belt for you, and my gun is at the bottom of the tree."

Accordingly, Arasap descended from his tree, loaded the gun, and approaching the rhinoceros, he fired and wounded him severely but not mortally in the jaw; the ball was a leaden one, it

did not break the bone, but was flattened against it, and stunned and dropped the animal.

The hunters now collected round the rhinoceros, thinking that it was incapable of rising again; and Arasap, in the pride of his heart, was directing the rest how to stab him with the best effect with their assegaes in different parts, when the beast beginning to recover, *spurtled* or kicked with his legs, and Henrick calling to the men to run for their lives, he set them the example, and swift-footed like Camilla, he scoured the plane, and was soon out of danger. The rhinoceros started up, singled out the unfortunate Arasap, and with ears erect, and screaming and snorting with rage, he thundered after him. Arasap, seeing that he was unable to outrun him, tried the same trick with which the other hunter had succeeded; that is, he stopped short, and hoped that the rhinoceros would pass him; the brute was not to be baulked a second time, but catching the doomed man on his horn under the left thigh (which was cut open as if an axe had been used), he tossed him a dozen yards into the air!

Arasap fell facing the rhinoceros, and with his

legs spread; the beast rushed at him, ripped up his abdomen to the ball-belt, and again threw him aloft. Henrick looked round, and saw Arasap like a jacket in the air. He fell heavily on the ground; the rhinoceros watched his fall, and running up to him, he trod upon him and pounded him to death. Arasap expired with the Namaqua exclamation of surprise and fear on his lip, "Eisey! eisey!"

After this tragedy, the rhinoceros limped off to the shelter of a bush. Henrick and the others crept up to destroy him. He dashed out again, and would have caught another man had it not been for a dog which came in the way barking. In turning short after the dog, the half broken bone of the rhinoceros snapped—it fell, unable to recover itself, and was immediately shot dead!

On the night of the 12th, we slept pleasantly, calculating on carrying the grass and water with us all the way to the sea, but on this journey, as on the great journey of life; if we were comforted at one time, we were tried with affliction at another.

Lest man should sink beneath the present pain,
Lest man should triumph in the present joy,
For, him the gracious laws of heaven ordain,
Hope in his ills, and to his bliss alloy.

On the 13th, our route lay in the bed of the river over sand, and under the trees, which we brushed as we passed along; we had much trouble with the packs, owing to the oxen rubbing them off under the branches. The pools of water appeared at longer intervals, and after four miles they entirely ceased. In doubt and uncertainty we accomplished twelve miles before we came to where Kuisip was sitting by a small hole under a rock, containing a very scanty supply of greenish water, full of frogs and little fish, and about which we saw the recent marks of impure baboons; there was no water for the cattle, and only a mouthful for the people.

Kuisip went in advance to look for water for the morrow; we expected his return most anxiously, and looked for the sea from the cliffs, but it was too far off yet to be seen. Kuisip came back after dark, with the distressing news that he could find no water whatever, after three

hours ride (twelve miles); we ate our supper in no enviable frame of mind, whilst the baboons howled in mockery, as it were, from the rocks above us. As we lay down under the trees, I thought "suppose to-morrow we go on for twenty-four miles (the utmost our oxen can accomplish,) and at the end of this distance we find no water, our strength will be exhausted, and we cannot return to this place, or retrace our steps further up the Kuisip; the best sight we could now see would be a pool of muddy water. I would give twenty guineas to any one who would assure us of finding water down the river, and within twenty miles of where we now are; to-morrow, may be our last evening!"

To sleep was impossible, for several hours; besides melancholy anticipations, the troublesome insect, the bush louse, with flat red body and streaked legs, attacked us without mercy, and the baboons *quahed* horribly, close beside us.

At daylight there was nothing for us but to pack up and to push on as vigorously as we could. Again the oxen annoyed us by running

under the branches of the trees for coolness, and some lay down exhausted, and had to be unpacked before we could get them up again. The banks of the river became lower. On the right were rocks of mica slate, and on the left sand hills. The dubbee boom, or tamarisk tree, apparently the type of this part of Africa, and which I had constantly seen from the Kousie to the Kuisip, was now covered with white bloom. Of the chief Kuisip, who took upon himself the charge of searching for water, we heard nothing; where he was, and whether he had found any water, we, bringing up the rear of the people and baggage, knew not. After one-and-twenty miles, the oxen seemed quite "done up" with the heavy sand in the river's bed, the heat (93°), and thirst. They had no water the night before. I halted the distressed cavalcade beside some reeds, where the cracked clay indicated a recent pool; we dug here but found no moisture.

I was undecided whether or not to pack off and rest the oxen a little, though it appeared our case was nearly hopeless, when the chief's gun-carrier Einap (or liver) appeared with a smiling

countenance, and pronouncing the magic word 'kams (water), the people set up a shout of joy, and most of the Namaquas leaving us to get on the cattle the best way we could, set off to refresh themselves. After considerable trouble with the bullocks, we got them on four miles more (twenty-five in all), when, below a sort of step in the river's bed, among a large patch of reeds, there was found, to our exceeding relief, a good supply of water.

This place was to us, parched and hard wrought as we were, a little Paradise. I felt again quite contented, seeing how the people and cattle were enjoying themselves, reposing under the trees and among the reeds. On the reeds, by bringing two or three together, the red-headed weaver bird had hung its light grassy nest, which waved in the air with the wind. In the evening, I went up the hills on the north bank, to look for the sea which we were striving so hard to reach; but I could see nothing of it. Bare and extensive plains lay to the north, and at my feet were large crystals of hornblende imbedded in quartzose rock.

We had not got any game for some days; the sheep were almost all eaten, and the broken-backed and lame bullocks devoured by my forty followers. Not knowing that we should obtain any supplies at the sea, (and we were almost certain we should find no game there), we were now reduced to very short commons. A sheep was made to go a long way, and none of us had ever sufficient to appease our hunger. The Namaquas asked for a bullock's hide, which we had kept to make shoes of, and roasting it at the fire, they pounded it between stones, and devoured the whole of it. I partook of it also, and found it very tough, but not disagreeable to the taste: to be sure, at the time, I could have eaten my saddle for hunger; and I certainly thought that our leather trousers must soon furnish a meal. Old Choubib was a great talker and a great eater; and when he got a mess of meat before him, he made always a large hole in it. An ingenious device was fallen upon to cheat him of his usual portion. When he sat down to eat, one of the white men asked him a question on some subject, he answered it at

length; then another would ask his opinion on something else, and thus he would be kept talking whilst the rest were busy eating from the mess; and when he had finished his discourse, he found but a scanty morsel left.

We halted four-and-twenty hours, and then went on again. Shortly after we left the reeds, we saw the footmarks of men. Many of the Namaquas got alarmed at this, and wished to pack off that we might ascertain who and what the strangers were. We had many stories among the people of the wild men who lived by the sea at the mouth of the Kuisip, of their killing white sailors, of their bloody battles with the Damaras, &c. But I would not consent to delay: we went on, and after fifteen miles march, having lost all the cliffs and crags which higher up had enclosed the river, we offpacked on its grassy bed. By moonlight we saw a place which looked damp, and digging there we luckily found water.

On Sunday, the 16th, we were obliged to hurry on. Trees and grass were plentiful in the broad bed of the river, but no water was seen. Sand hills continued on our left, and increased in

height and in variety of outline. On our right, was a plain covered with granitic sand; and bearing north from us lay a high mountain, apparently ten miles off, and two or three thousand feet high, which I named Mount Hamilton, after the worthy President of the Royal Geographical Society, W. R. Hamilton, Esq., F.R.S.

After sixteen miles journey, we halted at a place where huts had lately been erected, and where we got dirty water by digging for it. In the evening, a broken murmur, borne up the river by the west wind, broke on our attentive ears. This was the roar of the breakers on the coast, and though we were yet far from the ocean, its music was most soothing and delightful.

" As some lone traveller, who the livelong day
Toils in the sandy waste, or fainting climbs
The lofty mountain, and in distance views
Gay smiling fields and turrets tipt with gold;
His ravish'd soul exults, refresh'd he breathes
The purer air of Heaven, and pursues,
With double vigour, his meand'ring way;—
Thus did our ear inhale the blissful sounds,
And our heart beat with a redoubled joy."

Next day I thought we were to lose Elliot. He had hitherto borne his fatigues well, and was indefatigable as a sportsman; but now, shortly after we started, he could neither walk nor ride his ox, feeling so sick and weak, and he lay down on the sand quite exhausted. With some trouble I got him on; but after eighteen miles we were all obliged to halt, the cattle could travel no further; and as we had not a drop of water, (our two little kegs, canteens, and stone bottles were empty), the people were plunged again into the depths of despair.

Leaving them to sleep away the sense of their present misery, I wandered about the broad bed of the river with Henrick Buys for an hour or two, looking earnestly into every patch of reeds or long grass for moisture, and digging with our hands in the clay and sand at the most likely places for finding the indispensible element; but no water could we find. With our mouths as dry as a dusty road, and hardly able to speak, we looked about for some green grass to chew; and, to our most agreeable surprise, we

found the new fruit 'naras, of which I had first heard from the Boschmans of Ababies.

The 'naras was growing on little knolls of sand; the bushes were about four or five feet high, without leaves, and with apposite thorns on the light and dark green striped branches. The fruit has a coreaceous rind, rough with prickles, is twice the size of an orange, or fifteen or eighteen inches in circumference, and inside, it resembles a melon, as to seed and pulp. I seized a half ripe one, and sucked it eagerly for the moisture it contained; but it burned my tongue and palate exceedingly, which does not happen when this most valuable fruit is ripe; it has then a luscious sub-acid taste.

Kuisip had not yet appeared, and he was always most active in his endeavours to find water—till he returned with bad news I could not despair; and, though of late, our circumstances had often, apparently, been most desperate, yet

"Hope springs eternal in the human breast;"

and I had always vouchsafed to me an under

current of that consoler to afford some comfort, and to buoy me up.

I returned to the people, who had all thrown themselves under the trees and bushes, and were trying, by keeping quiet, to prevent their thirst increasing to a dangerous pitch. The goats were milked, and a few spoonfuls of milk were distributed as far as it went, but this small supply was of no use after a hot march under a temperature, in the shade, of ninety degrees. We also tried to eat a little, but it was impossible to swallow the food.

When matters were in this miserable state, I saw Kuisip approach, with two or three of his people; I hesitated at first to ask him the news, but at last said, "Is there water?"

"Yes," he answered, "and we passed it on our way here."

"Is there enough for the men and cattle?"

"There is enough."

On hearing which the poor people's eyes, which had been clouded with despair, immediately brightened, and they gave themselves up

to joy. "'Kams; 'kams!"—water, water, was heard on every side.

To compare great things with small, as the soldiers of the gallant Moore, languid with their distressing retreat, rose fresh from the heights of Corunna with the prospect of a contest, so did my people, exhausted with their thirsty journey, acquire a new life with the prospect of moistening their parched bodies.

Little did our friends at home then suppose, that we were delighted beyond measure at finding two little holes full of muddy water. Ye, whose tongues have clove to the roof of the mouth with thirst, can appreciate the exceeding relief we now experienced at the immediate prospect of swetting our cracked lips!

On the 18th of April we were just three months from the warm-bath. I now thought that I could not wish my worst enemy more trials and troubles than we had experienced in that time. Still I was very thankful that myself and people were yet alive—that I was now quite free from lameness: and I hoped that

the journey, long as it had been, would not prove to have been undertaken in vain—that our labours would meet with the approbation of our countrymen, and would be eventually attended with benefit to the human race. One thing was unpleasant, I could not help overhearing, among some of my white and coloured attendants, expressions indicative of their being tired of the journey, though as yet, they did not complain to me of it; but after what they had suffered, it is not to be wondered at, that they thought they had had enough of the south-west coast of Africa.

"Come, men," I said, "we must not lose heart—we have already got further to the north of the Cape than any other white men before us—we must persevere and try how much more we can do—we must not be laughed at on our return."

In the afternoon, we reached Aban'huas, or Red-bank, a part of the river so named from the red colour of the sand-hills on the south-side. Here we found a deserted hut, of a conical form, and composed of stakes and bushes, and beside

it, among reeds, there was excellent water. We again saw the recent spoor of men, and in order to obtain guides and supplies of food, it became necessary to hunt up the people. Accordingly, after a pursuit behind, and among the sand-hills, two heads were at last seen peeping over a knoll, and our Namaqua pack of hunters, by circumvention, soon secured two stout fellows.

Our captives belonged to a large tribe of red men, speaking the Namaqua language, and who inhabit the shores about Walvisch Bay. They were tall and good-looking for Namaquas, and wore fur-caps, handsome mantles of jackals' skins, ivory scoops about the neck, trophy rings of leather round the wrist, the disc or circle of leather in front, and sandals on the feet. They were quite ready for action with bows bent, quivers of soft leather full of poisoned arrows, and lances. And for provisions, they carried at their backs nets containing half-a-dozen of the ripe 'naras fruit, which served them for food and water.

These two men were spies, who had been sent

to reconnoitre us from the main body. At first, they were in some trepidation, seeing the number of guns we had, but on being presented with a pipe and a piece of flesh, and being assured that they had nothing to fear from us, and that we merely wished to go to the sea to look for a ship I expeeted, and that I wished to purchase some provisions from them, and not to take from them their property, they became composed, and I asked them the news.

They said that it was now the commencement of the mist rains at Walvisch Bay, when the ships arrive to catch whales; that no ships had been there for a long time, but that they now expected them every day—that the Damara negroes of the plains were at the distance of a month from them, in the upper parts of the Swakop or Bowel river, which, like the Kuisip, emptied itself into Walvisch Bay—that they had no friendly intercourse with the Damaras, of whom they were much afraid, as they were a strong people, *and very angry*—that once they had gone up the Swakop, on a hunting expedition, and had got under a high rock, on the top of which

were Damaras—that instead of the Damaras shewing any desire to be friendly, they shouted, and threw down stones at the Namaquas of the Bay—that beyond the Damara negroes, and along the coast, is another nation of *red* men, called Nubees, or the Many People, and which people are friendly to strangers—that it was impossible to get to them now, though the chief of the Bay had once visited them, but he was now absent on a visit in the interior, and no one else at present at the Bay could undertake to shew the waters beyond the Swakop.

"Besides," said the spies, "we are always afraid of meeting the Damaras on the sea-shore, to which they occasionally come on their hunting expeditions, after the *elephants* and other large animals in the Swakop. Not long ago the Damaras came down and attacked the people of the Bay, who at first fled; but watching the Damaras as they separated to eat the 'naras fruit along the Kuisip, we killed a number of them, and the heaps of stones you passed the day before, are their graves: after this the Damaras have not troubled us."

The spies had heard of our approach from a Boschman who had been near the waggon when it stood in the desert of 'Tans, and who had heard the shots fired when the gemsboks were killed. The Boschman came along the river, and told the people who were lying in it, that a large commando, or armed party, was coming against them to plunder them; and they accordingly left the river and fled among the sand hills; but the chief's wife, who was left at the bay, told her people not to be alarmed, or to run away, but to collect the cattle and sheep, and see what assistance could be given us.

I was much surprised and pleased on hearing the friendly intentions of the chief's wife; and I immediately dismissed one of the spies with a present of a large handkerchief for the head of the lady, and with tobacco for her pipe; and I directed the messenger to say that I hoped to meet with her at the sea in a day or two, and that she need be under no apprehension of any evil from us; for we were merely hunters of game, and not robbers of cattle.

In the afternoon we packed up and went

along the river for some distance, then left it to the right, and got amongst sand downs; and some time after sundown, we packed off for the night at two or three huts at a distance from water, but surrounded with heaps of 'naras skin. Here we saw a few new men's faces, but no women.

The huts were of singular construction. Crooked stakes were arranged in a circular form, and met at the top, where a stout straight post supported the roof. Some of the crooked stakes projected beyond the entrance, so as to form a porch, to prevent the west wind from blowing into the hut, which was well thatched with grass and reeds, and was roomy and comfortable inside.

To prevent the oxen straying among the sand hills, we attached them by the nose thongs to the packing riems, stretched between the cases; and scooping out for ourselves beds among the sand, we lay down to sleep in peace, seeing that we had secured the good will of the people of the Bay, who have got the character in Namaqua land of being a very wild tribe.

On the 19th of April, after allaying our hunger

and thirst with some ripe 'naras, the entire support of the Bay people for two or three moons or months—at least, so they gave me to understand —we continued our march among the sand hills, and on descending a high one, a plain covered with reeds and grass was spread before us, on which were hummocks of sand covered with bushes, and in the horizon gleamed the welcome ocean, now reached for the first time at this point from the Cape, from which it is distant 12° of latitude. We halted at a number of empty huts, near a pool of brackish water, and pitched our tent not far from Pelican Point, Walvisch Bay, in lat. 22° 55′ south.

CHAPTER IV.

Sketch of Walvisch Bay—Walk along the Beach—Human Bones—Who they belonged to—Wild Spirits ought to be restrained—Important Rule for Travellers—Wild Fowl—Obtain a Prize—Agreeable change of Food—How the People of the Bay live—Travelling Anticipations—Strange Old Women—Another Walk—An American Whaler arrives in the Bay—Our first meeting with the Captain and Crew—An unpleasant Excursion—The Wants of the Americans—The Author goes on board the Whaler—The Chief's Wife—Another Whaler puts in—New Cure for Scurvy—Tricks upon Travellers—Pursuit after a Hunchback Whale—State of the Weather—Digging for Clams—Offered a Passage to St. Helena—A Council—Manœuvres of Old Choubib—Is Walvisch Bay adapted for the Establishment of a Trading Factory, and for a Mission Station?—Our Occupations at the Bay—The Mountains of Qua'nuas.

WALVISCH BAY is a considerable indentation in the line of the west coast of South Africa, its length from North to South, along the coast, may be about twenty-five miles; the most secure part of the bay is that behind Pelican Point, (a long spit of sand, alive with wild fowl), which prevents the west wind rolling the billows of the Southern Atlantic over the anchorage behind

it. There is a broad sandy beach round the bay, and sand hills heaped up in various forms inland, and the general aspect of things here is very wild and Arabian-like.

Where we lay, was two or three miles from the south end of the Bay; and on the afternoon of our arrival we walked with eagerness and impatience to hail once more the ocean, which having now reached, we thought we should not perish. We expected to see ships, and to find stranded fish, or shell fish, to support us. Along the shore of the shallow southern creek were long lines of dead mullet and cat fish, and at two different places we saw the skeletons of human beings, half covered with sand.

We thought of the stories we had heard, of white men having been cut off at Walvisch Bay; but, on questioning our guide, one of the spies we had caught at Aban'huas, he said that one set of bones we saw belonged to a feeble woman, who in wading into the shallow water to fish, had stuck in the mud, and was drowned by the rising tide, and that the other bones belonged to a man of the bay, who was lamed from a fish-

bone running into his leg, and who fell and died one day on the sand heap where we saw his remains.

But afterwards we found out that these bones were actually those of white men. A woman told one of our Namaquas, that a captain of a ship, who was called by her "Hous," in returning to his boat, was assegaed on the beach, his men having interfered with some of the women; and that from a similar cause, and on another occasion, when a whale had been struck, and was lying stranded near the mouth of the Swakop, two boats' crews landed near it in the evening to cut off the blubber, and that the bay men, with broken assegaes concealed under their cloaks, mixed themselves with the white men, and watching their opportunity when the sailors were sitting by their fire at night, they rose and stabbed them all except one man, who escaped up the river, but who was also killed a day or two after.

It is very difficult to restrain "the wild spirits of ocean," on first landing from a voyage; but it ought to be the chief point of attention of

masters of vessels to prevent their men irritating the natives any where, by interfering with what does not belong to them, and not set their men a bad example as I have myself witnessed. Among barbarians a stranger ought to have the greatest command over himself, and be under strict self control, or there is a chance that he will not travel far, or long sojourn in safety among them. If his moral principle is not strong enough to control him, and to cause him to refrain from committing a great sin, then common prudence ought to dictate to him not to covet what is his neighbour's, when he places himself completely in that neighbour's power. Savages have affections and feelings like other men, and all are not like the Boschmans of Ababies; let the white stranger then ask himself, if tempted to try seduction by beads or toys, how he would relish that those he left at home should be tampered with, or be induced to violate their pledges made to *him* who now seeks to inflict a mortal injury on another. We see daily instances of retribution in this world, and is it not likely that in the case of a seducer especially, he

will one day writhe under a similar injury to that which he may now recklessly inflict?

Let this rule be recollected in travelling, "If the jealousy of savages is roused, they immediately become most implacable enemies, and even if they are condescending in a particular way, that condescension being taken advantage of, places them on a level with you, and destroys your superiority over them." Many an expedition carefully prepared, and which may have started with every prospect of success, has been ruined from this cause alone, interference with women, though this, the true cause of an expedition's failure, may not have been revealed to the world.

The quantities of sea fowl we saw on the shores of the bay, winging their way, and screaming over its green waters, were immense; pelicans with snow white plumage, and a slight blush of red on the wings, appeared in vast flocks; flamingoes with out-stretched necks and drooping bills, stalked along the beach, and not having been fired at for a long time, they allowed us to approach them; wild geese in long strings flew over head, out of reach

of our guns, and sand larks, useless to us, owing to their diminutive size, hurried along the wet sand before us.

Substantial food was what we craved, and a dead fish we had no objection to, provided it was not too far gone. At last we got a great prize in a stranded cabaljao, fifty pounds weight, like a huge salmon, and which took two men to carry it on a stick between them; by the gills it appeared not to have been dead many hours, and had ventured too far into shoal water after the small fry.

Further on we fell in with large muscles of excellent quality, and digging with our hands in the sand, we collected a quantity of clams. This change of food was to myself and my white men a very great treat; all the biscuit was used, and of course we had had no vegetables, and it is only after much rain (which we had not yet experienced) that roots are to be found; of flesh we were quite tired, and though we had not got enough of that of late to keep us in proper condition, I myself was disgusted with its endless repetition, and yet I believe that our Namaquas

not caring for fish, and even disliking it, would have willingly gorged themselves with flesh alone, from one year's end to the other, if they could have got it.

The bay people catch and eat fish after the 'naras is out of season, and the carcases of whales, killed by the crews of whaling ships, afford them savoury repasts in the months of May, June, July, and August, or during the time the whalers are about the bay. After this they hunt, obtain roots after rain, and kill an occasional heifer or sheep, till the 'naras season again comes round. Thus they make out the year without cultivation of any sort, not even melons or tobacco, of which last they are extravagantly fond, two or three sticks being the price of a sheep.

After walking about ten miles from the Tent we were opposite Pelican Point, on which we saw the jaws of whales set up like beacons. We looked in vain for any post or staff erected to tell us that a ship of war had visited the bay to assist us, and would come again, but I hoped that we should soon see one of Sir Patrick Campbell's

squadron, by which I might be set down at Benguella, and from thence travel east. Since my prospects of getting further to the northward of Walvisch Bay by land were at present bad, I resolved to tarry some time at the bay to give a chance to the man-of-war to arrive, and if in ten days or a fortnight she did not appear, then I intended to penetrate to the eastward from the bay, as far as I possibly could, hoping that I might not be "brought up" till I found myself in the Mozambique Channel; remembering that we must strive continually to.

> "Conquer difficulties
> By daring to attempt them—Sloth and folly
> Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and danger,
> And make the impossibility they fear."

I returned to the tent, round which the Namaquas were sheltered behind screens of bushes and reeds, and seemed to be comfortable; and I was glad to find some of the Bay people beginning to occupy the deserted huts; but as yet none but very old women appeared, besides a couple of dozen of stout fellows, (some of them

in penguin caps) who went about always armed and prepared in case of treachery on our part, though as we saw neither flocks nor herds, there was no temptation to molest them. Whilst we slept with arms in our hands and the dogs at our feet as usual, in case of a night attack. The old women, who wore the usual skin petticoat, a flap behind and fringe before, tried to render themselves attractive with cowery shells hanging over their eyes, and with rosettes of the same sewn on leather, and attached to one side of their head, "we are willing to find husbands among your people," said the old dames!

I thought that as we were out of sight of the usual landing place for boats, that we might be missed if we did not get into another situation. Accordingly, next day, I set off with a guide and some of the people to walk along shore, and look out for another place where the tent could be pitched near water and opposite Pelican Point. At the distance of eight miles from the kraal we observed through the mist which lay on the sea, a white object on the water—we approached nearer—when old Choubib, seemingly

mad with joy, began to dance about, and to shout, "een schuit! een schuit!" a boat! a boat!

Presently an American whale boat under sail neared the beach with a shark in tow; the crew of which seeing, unexpectedly, such extraordinary figures as I and my men were with our beards, ostrich plumes, hunting frocks and arms, hesitated to land; but hearing us speak English they stepped ashore, and, in the usual cool New England way, they shook hands with us without saying a word, when one of them, a mate, said, "what gang do you belong to?" Now, *gang* in Yankee phraseology does not mean, as with us, a gang of robbers, slaves, or convicts, but merely a company, so I, having travelled the States from the Chesapeake to old Kentuck, answered, without feeling annoyance, that we had come from the Cape of Good Hope so far, on an Expedition of Discovery; on which the mate, with a half incredulous look, answered, "oh, H—l!"

I asked what ship had anchored in the bay, and the mate said it was the Commodore Perry,

Hoborn master, from New England, "and there is my captain," pointing to a lusty man in his shirt sleeves, who had just landed from another boat.—The captain came up in a friendly way, and said he thought we were shipwrecked mariners, for he had never seen or heard of white men before in this section of Africa, said he should like to see our camp, "at the head of the navigation," and "guessed" that we should like to come on board, and eat a little ship biscuit and drink a glass of grog. I thanked him, and said that I was on the look out for a new "location" for my tent, but would be with him by-and-by. I then directed Taylor to accompany the captain in his boat on his way to the tent, and went with Robert, Elliot and the guide among the sand hills, to find another watering place.

We had been landing another cabaljao, and had left our shoes under charge of a boy. At first on the soft mud we felt no inconvenience, but when we got on the burning sands we longed for the receipt of the Fire King; however on we trudged, crossed the mouth of the Kuisip, in which there appeared to have been water only

after floods in the river; toiled up and down the sand hills, and found in the different vallies between them six or eight holes, in which was brackish water; but we saw no place where the oxen could have found food, half so good as where they were, though the pasture there was coarse enough.

After labouring for four hours under a hot sun, sometimes half way up to the knee in sand, and with our feet scorched with the heat, stung with the quick grass, and bruised with the baked clay, we reached the tent, and found Captain Hoborn and his people there. We had nothing to offer the strangers but some 'naras fruit and brack water, which last the Americans could not swallow. I told them we had suffered so much from want of water of any kind, that sweet or brack, clear or muddy, was all the same to us, provided we got a belly full of it.

"That's d——d hard, I swear," cried the carpenter of the whaler.

"Can we get any green or fresh here?" (vegetables or fresh meat) was next asked.

"We have seen none yet," I said; "we are

ourselves much in want of provisions, and would be glad to trade with you for a little ship's beef and biscuit."

"What can you miss?" was asked.

"Some rope, knives, sambuks or whips of rhinoceros hide, pipes, and zebra head skins for pouches."

"Well, come on board, and see what we have got, and speak to the Niggers here, will ye, for some *fresh* for us, and, we'll miss them a musket for two or three bullocks."

I went off with the Americans toward the boat "at the head of the navigation," and we found it high and dry, with the boat-keeper asleep in it. He was saluted with this strange abuse, "You've been taking a dodger, eh! you damned h——l!" and we then put our shoulders to the gunwale of the boat, and shoved her over the mud into deep water again.

I was hospitably entertained on board the Commodore, and enjoyed especially the biscuit, potatoes, and penguin's eggs boiled hard, the yolk of which is capital eating. Capt. Hoborn said he thought of remaining four months at

Walvisch Bay, that he was now looking out for Hunchback whales to come in every day to breed, and that they had already got some fish lower down the coast. They never heard of any British whalers coming to Walvisch Bay, but saw an English brig at Angra Piquena lately, and said, that our people seemed to overlook the fishing on the African coast almost entirely, which is certainly true.*

I told the Americans several stories of the chase in return for their good fare; and one of the mates "calculated" that he would make his fortune in a month if he had "that runner of ours" (Henrick) in New York.

After a comfortable sleep in a berth, I shewed the Americans where to obtain a large supply of fire-wood at the mouth of the Kuisip—trees brought down by the floods in the river; and then I returned to the tent, where I found the chief's wife waiting to see me. She was an old woman, lame of a leg, and attended by half-a-dozen ancient ladies of honour, from whom she was distinguished by wearing a handsome kaross

* See Appendix.

of jackal's skins, and the handkerchief I had sent her for her head. I told her the object of my journey, that I was now looking out for a ship to get assistance, and in the meantime, I should be happy to barter handkerchiefs, beads, knives, &c. with her or her people for some cattle or sheep. She promised to do what she could for us; and after I had given her a few small presents, and above all, some tobacco, she went off in a good humour.

The Chief Kuisip coveting one of the ship's muskets, said he would give a couple of his riding oxen for it; and Henrick said he would "miss" an ox for five bottles of powder, (two is commonly given at Angra Piquena for an ox). I did not like parting with any of the cattle, not knowing but that we should be reduced to eat most of them yet, and abandon the baggage; but as Kuisip and Henrick had conducted themselves so well towards me, I did not throw any difficulties in the way of their bargains, and accordingly they and Choubib went on board.

Another whaler now appeared in the bay, the Pocahontas, Menter, from Portsmouth, United

States. This ship having been out longer than the Commodore, and having had no "green or fresh" for some time, was afflicted with scurvy, but which I saw cured in a simple and novel way. Capt. Menter got some potatoes from the Commodore, and bringing his patients on deck, he made them eat for three or four days a few raw potatoes, washed and sliced, and the effects of this treatment were astonishing—the men's gums, which before were white and sore with disease, resumed their natural colour, and the other symptoms of scurvy also left them.

The morning after the three headmen had gone on board, I was looking for fish on the beach, when I noticed Kuisip, Henrick, and Choubib returning to the tent, and every now and then looking, between the light, at a bottle they had got, and seemingly in high argument, I went to them, and found them a little "raised" with liquor, and in a great passion.

"Look, mynheer," said Choubib, "at the trick which has been played us by one of the mates. We got five bottles of what we thought

was powder, but one of them we now find to have only a little fat in it."

I looked at it, and found that half a bottle of palm oil had been given to the Namaquas as a *bonne-bouche*, or to make their woolly hair grow, perhaps; but as they wanted powder and not pomatum, I took the oil from them, and promising to get the mate to rectify the mistake, I sent them off to the tent to keep them quiet, as they talked big of shooting, &c.

I respect the Americans as a nation for their stirring activity and steady perseverance to raise themselves in the world; but the respectable citizens of the Union must condemn the slim "tricks" which some of their people from particular sections are too apt "to play on travellers"—such as the one now attempted. I don't think Captain Hoborn knew any thing of it till I told him, when a bottle of powder was immediately supplied.

On the 29th of April, the first hunchback whale appeared in the bay, and an active pursuit took place immediately with half a dozen boats.

The American cedar boats, with the weight well forward, seemed to pull better than English boats. The whale was soon hemmed in, and we thought it was a prize, when, after rising and spouting for the last time, it disappeared with a bellow, dived under the boats, and carried out its great bulk to sea again.

On our first arrival at the bay the wind was often S.S.W., with thick fogs and small drizzling rain, so that the appearance of our encampment in the midst of a sombre plain, with some hills indistinctly seen about it, reminded me of a dreary scene in the arctic seas. Towards the end of April the wind chopped round to N.N.E. For three days we had a gale from the S.W., during which the thermometer was at 70° at noon, and we were now (half roasted as we had been formerly), quite benumbed with cold, and my Namaquas became impatient to leave the coast.

Through the kindness of Mr. Hayes, a fine young man, a mate of the Commodore Perry, I was twice landed, with three or four of my people, at Pelican Point, the best place to dig for

clams. It was rather an odd employment to go down on one's knees as the tide was receding, and black shags and white gulls were screaming round one, and wingless penguins were shuffling along the beach of the dark main, and to dig with one's hands in the wet sand, and at half a foot under the surface, to find the desired shell fish. I have not much of "the kid glove or silver fork" in me; still this occupation rather spoilt my nails; but what will not one do for dear life—for food! We got bushels of clams at Pelican Point, and they ate very sweetly at the tent.

At last, after a good deal of negotiation, the Bay people, (who were now in considerable numbers, men, women, and children), brought some lean sheep and goats to barter. We exchanged beads and cutlery for them, and again made up a small flock. We also got for rope, fishing lines, &c., two or three bags of ship's biscuit, and Captain Menter, (a worthy kind hearted man), knowing our late sufferings, seeing our present state, and fearing that we might yet perish if we attempted to go further, offered to run over

to St. Helena with me and my seven Cape attendants for 70*l.* or the price of a whale; but I said that I had not yet seen enough of the interior, that I intended (since I could not go further to the north from Walvisch Bay) to go as far east as I could, and having now a small supply of food for present support, I trusted ere long to find game again. I thanked Captain Menter for his offer of a passage in the Pocahontas, though I never felt tempted to avail myself of it.

I now held a council with the headmen about our further proceedings. Henrick Buys said he would go with me to the world's end if I chose, the determination of this fine fellow and prime hunter was quite an "I pre, sequor" one, and I highly appreciated his resolves and merits; as to Kuisip he was also willing to assist me with his own services and those of his people, but he was under the guidance of the cunning old fox Choubib, the interpreter, who seeing that the man-of-war, from which he expected so much, did not arrive, he did all he could to persuade me to return by the shortest road to the Orange river, pretending that he was quite alarmed

about my resolution to go to the eastward, that we should now certainly perish either from hunger, thirst, or the wild Damaras, and that the only chance he saw of saving the expedition, was by returning to Ababies again, and recrossing the Great Flat.

I answered that I would sooner die than again see Calabash Kraal, where began our greatest miseries; that if he did not choose to go further with me, I should now give him the musket and the other things which had been promised him, and that he might depart in peace, but that nothing could induce me to give up the attempt to penetrate to the east. Seeing that he could not carry into effect his own secret intention of returning direct to his people, he at last said he would also accompany me to the sources of the Swakop and Kuisip.

Choubib was no favorite with my people: he was a short tempered pragmatical old fellow, and was also excessively greedy; he carried with him sundry bags, in which he stowed away whatever odds and ends were lying about; small bits of tobacco, straps, buckles, needles, buttons,

soap, &c., and it was very difficult to prevent a positive fight between him and my attendants, white and coloured, so captious and quarrelsome was he.

As we could have now done without him (having Henrick Buys, who could also interpret for me) I wished Choubib to leave for the sake of harmony; but he would not, and even tried to persuade me to remain longer at the sea for the man-of-war. I had waited a fortnight and saw no signs of her, and we had had so much difficulty in getting a small supply of provisions, that I could not remain longer by the sea side, eating up every thing, and consequently was obliged to move. Why Choubib was so glad when he first saw the whale boat, was because he thought that it belonged to the man-of-war I expected, and that if I sailed in her, to him would fall my bullocks, stores, &c. and that he would obtain besides, a handsome present from the vessel!

As we are about to leave Walvisch Bay, the question naturally arises, is it well adapted for the establishment of a religious mission, or of a factory for trade? Besides Angra Piquena, it

is the only bay on the south-west coast of Africa, of any size, until Saldanha Bay is reached. It is a very safe bay, the holding ground is good, nothing can hurt a vessel anchored behind Pelican Point, and there is plenty of (brackish) water, and of fire wood. It teems with fish and wild fowl, and must be a favourite resort for whales, or the American whalers, sometimes two or three together, would not remain here for four months as they do. The tribe which inhabits the shores of the bay is a large one, that is, some hundreds in number; for I saw many groups of their huts among the sand hills; and though a wild people, they might be conciliated with kindness. They have flocks and herds, though we saw few of them, and those only of the worst description; for they were doubtless afraid of tempting my Namaquas to make a foray amongst them on a future day. It might be worth while to ship cattle from Walvisch Bay to St. Helena. In the time of Napoleon they used to be sent from Benguela. Seven hundred ships put in annually to St. Helena, and cannot obtain there the supplies they want. One hun-

dred and fifty or two hundred miles N.N.E. of the bay the country is full of fine cattle; and even the bay people can produce a good many from their sand hills, when they think there is no danger of shewing them. There is a possibility of much ivory being obtained at the bay; as further north the country is certainly full of elephants.

The climate of the bay is healthy and good. It is hot in the beginning of the year; but in May it was cool, and it would continue so till August. There is no stagnant water, and nothing to cause fevers about the bay. The great drawback to a settlement here would be the light and sandy nature of the soil. Yet it is astonishing what the pure sand of Africa produces with the addition of a few decayed leaves, and with moisture. The people said there was plenty of mist (or small rain) in the cool months, which would bring forward vegetables, though there is no stream which could be led out over the land. I sowed some melon and pumpkin seeds by a pool.

A Captain Morell, of the United States, said that, from what he saw of the people of Wal-

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visch Bay, he was convinced that by placing himself under their care he might have gone right across Africa. The captain was quite wrong in his notions regarding the bay people. It is very unusual for them to go beyond the mouths of the Swakop and Kuisip. The chief has no influence beyond the shores of Walvisch Bay. No one can pass through the Damaras of the plains from the bay without a very powerful escort; and the only thing which might be done, (besides what we did), would be to induce the chief to show the way to the Red men living to the north, that is if they do not come down to these a coast in latitude 19 or 20, and could be more easily communicated with from the sea. This expedition would be well worth a trial. I had the greatest desire to undertake it; but, besides not being able to get any guides to go with me to shew me the waters, our cattle were now so feeble and knocked up, that it was doubtful if we could get many of them beyond the sand hills. Without guides then, and without some cattle in tolerable order, it was impossible for me to see a most interesting race; and

how as red men they are nearer the line than the negro Damaras I cannot say, unless the Damaras came from the north east to the Swakop.

If missions were established farther in Great Namaqua land than the Warm Bath, it would be necessary to have a station at the bay, to assist and communicate with those in the interior. It would be too far to send to the Cape for supplies with waggons for stations about the sources of the Great Fish River, for instance; and therefore a bay station would be indispensible: and perhaps, with prudent management and caution, tempering zeal with knowledge, the fine race of the Damaras of the plains might be communicated with, and without danger, from the bay.

Our principal amusements at the bay were shooting wild fowl, (to keep the people from wearying), and eating 'naras and shell fish. Two or three times we hauled the seine, which, however, was rather short for sea-fishing, but we managed to catch mullet with it. I wished to go in a whale boat to the mouth of the Swakop, to ascertain the existence of elephants,

which are said to be numerous about the river; but some excuse was made for not lending the boat, and the bad plight of my bullocks prevented my going by land. Once out in a whale boat, it blew very hard, and with a sail set, and steering merely by the trim, and without an oar out, we were on the eve of being upset, with a strong gust, among the hungry sharks, and were only saved by the mast going by the board.

The scenery about the mouth of the Swuakop was striking from the sea. The sandhills, which extended from the Kuisip, were here succeeded by mountains apparently two or three thousand feet high, and called the Qua'nuas, or clay-bank-trap mountains, that is, those in which the foot is caught as in a trap: the sailors called them the Blue Mountains. I named the highest of them Mount Colquhoun, after my valued friend and connexion, Gideon Colquhoun, Esq., late Resident at Bussorah.

CHAPTER V.

Leave Walvisch Bay—Difficulties among the Sand Hills—Red Bank—The Chief Quasip—His News—Fear of Cannibalism—The Nubees Nation—Guides—Gnuhooas—Gnutueip—Hou'tous—Hard Fare—A Boschman outwitted—Poisonous Cameleons—The Hill of the Laughing Hyena—The Man-snake, an Extraordinary Reptile—The Mountains of the Wilderness—The Rolling River—Water Diggers—Slides—The Kuisip—Refreshing "Off-pack"—The Gorah—Oahap's Adventure—Pheasants—Keree Kama—Strange Notion of the Creation of Man—An Alarm—Damaraland—Zebra Plain—A Damara Village—Onakusis—Abas Houap—Boschman Worship—Hedges and Pit-falls—Snares—A Grand Prospect—Plenty in the Pot—The Snake Komakasip—Difficult Ascents—An Oasis.

On the 3rd of May, for the last time, I went up a sand hill commanding a view of the long line of coast, and the broad expanse of ocean; but I saw no ship of war, or any vessel, save the two whalers lying in the smooth water off Pelican Point. Whilst about two or three miles from me, and south of the bay, the waves beat with hoarse and constant roar among breakers.

A considerable time was now spent in collecting the sheep we had purchased from the bay people, and in bargaining with them for some strings of copper beads, which they said they had got from a man who lived on a hill north of the Swakop. At last every thing was packed, and in order for the march, which was now under the guidance of two of the bay people, who promised to show us the waters in the Kuisip, that we might not experience again the same difficulties we had formerly felt in coming down the river.

We drove the weary oxen, attenuated with the salt grass and brackish water of the bay, up and down the sand downs; the packs came off some, and others stuck fast; and we were obliged to carry

before us, on the oxen, some of the short-legged goats of the bay, which could not keep up with the flock. We dined off an old cow bought from Choubib's brother, which was as tough as sole leather; and in the evening we halted to sleep under a sand hill. After five hours' journey we were unable to go farther for the heavy and wetting mists which enveloped us, and which gave many of the people severe colds.

Next day we reached Red Bank. Here, with reeds, sweet grass, and good water, the oxen recovered a little, and the spirits of the party were raised. An old man on a journey, and in charge of eight women, here joined us, and said that Quasip, the chief of the bay, was passing us behind the sand hills, afraid to approach us. I immediately sent off one of the guides to intercept him; but he did not come to us till he had been at the bay, and had questioned his people there regarding us, and on the evening of the 6th he appeared with six followers.

Quasip was a cunning looking man of about forty-five years of age. He sat by our fire wrapped up in his kaross, peering warily round

him, and with an old councillor at his ear. He had now come from the country of the Hill Damaras; and he reported that a bloody battle had just been fought between them and the Damaras of the plains, in which the latter had gained the advantage, and had massacred many of the women and children of the hill people. He also said that some distance up the Kuisip, we should fall in with plenty of rhinoceroses, and also obtain other game to support us. This was good news for us; for now I really thought that the Namaquas, in their desperate hunger, (whetted with scanty portions of the small sheep of the bay, and with the keen air of the sea), would have risen at night, and slain and eaten without leave asked or obtained; and that there might even be a chance of their eating one another before we got to the game. As for myself, I was tolerably safe from their devouring jaws, being in hard working condition, with little flesh on my bones to tempt them.

I told Quasip that he must spare us something to kill, and I made him a present of knives, tinder-boxes, &c., to encourage him to send us

something to stay our appetites. He ordered one of his people to bring us two head of cattle; and a fat young bull and a heifer appeared after a few hours, which proved a most seasonable supply for us.

I of course questioned Quasip regarding the Nubees, or red people, to the north of the bay, whom he had once visited; but I could get no other information from him than this, that by good luck he had passed by the Damaras of the Swakop, had gone a month to the north of the bay, and had there fallen in with the great red nation, who were very friendly; spoke a different dialect from the Namaquas, but that he understood them; and that they were distinguished by allowing their woolly hair to grow long. I asked him if he would go again to the Nubees. He said that it was inconvenient for him to leave the bay at present, having just now come off a journey.

We got two Boschman guides from Quasip, instead of the two bay-men. The new guides, Oahap and Numeep, were to accompany us to the Hill Damaras, and our minds were now set

at rest about the water even beyond the Kuisip. On the 8th we were again on our way up the river, and halted at Gnuhooas, or Black Hole, twenty-four miles from the Red Bank.

About two hours further on was the watering place of Gnutueip, or Black Nose. Here were the graves of the Damaras, who were pursued up the river and slain by the bay people, and here also we saw the last of the 'naras fruit.* At Hou'tous, or Sand Gate, we had a delightful "off pack" under shady trees, with plenty of good grass and water. Some of the oxen stuck in the mud here, and we saved the weakest of them with difficulty. A fresh lion spoor kept us on the alert, but the Namaquas would not consent to go after him, because he had spared us. The people here roasted, pounded, and ate all the pieces of ox hide we had left: having suffered thirst in coming down the river, we now endured hunger in going up.

* Some plants of 'Naras are now growing in England (March 1838) from seeds which I brought home; they are a foot high and beginning to branch, having two thorns at each articulation, and a stipule scarcely to be called a leaf between them, on the axis of which is the bud, but no leaves.

It is a custom with the Namaquas when in the field, and ignorant of the water places, to look about for Boschman spoor, to catch one of the "children of the desert," and to make him show where water is to be found. On one occasion two or three Namaquas were returning from the coast, and unacquainted with the pools, they were dying of thirst, when they fortunately fell in with a Boschman. "Where is the water?" they inquired.

"I don't know of any water here about," said the Boschman.

"What! are we to die here? Come! take this stick and dig here in the ground for water."

The Boschman, in fear of his life, did as he was bid, and for a short time he turned up the dry surface of the plain, but soon tiring of work, he stopped and said, "Oh! I just remember there is water over the hill."

To avoid a considerable southerly bend in the Kuisip, we now left the river, and stretched across a hard gritty plain. Seven miles from Hou'tous, I found two cameleons, crouching on the ground beside some stones, and not within

miles of either bushes or water; their haunt seemed to be the open plain, unlike common cameleons, which are always found on or near bushes. The occiput of these new cameleons is triangular pyramidic, with the keels slightly denticulated; on the back is a series of distant, rather triangular, and blunt tubercles. The scales of the body are small, and nearly uniform, while those of the head are flattish. The tail is cylindrical. When I approached these cameleons, named *tuberculiferæ* by Mr. Gray, of the British Museum, the little things opened their mouths at me, and hissed like angry snakes, whilst a bag under their mouth swelled out to a great size, which, with their dark blotched bodies, gave them a hideous appearance. They run fast, and are accounted to be poisonous by the natives.*

At the distance of thirty miles from Hou'tous, we passed a grotesque collection of rocks, rising with dark and vertical stratification and serrated edges from the broad plain. The rocks were called by our guides Einhiras, or the Hill of the

* See Vignette.

Laughing Hyena. "Here," said the Boschmans, "is found a most extraordinary snake: eight feet long, mottled back, with overhanging brows like a man, and fiery eyes; whilst the sex is as plainly distinguished as in beasts. It lies commonly stretched out under the rocks, and we are much afraid of it."

I wished much to have halted a day at Einhiras, to obtain a specimen of this strange reptile, but there was not a drop of water near it, so we were obliged to hurry on in the night, and off packed among some bushes, after a thirty-five miles march. On the 12th, we passed on our left Tarahap, or Quiver Mountain, and Hokap, or Spotted Mountain, and saw before us the range called Tumas, or the Mountains of the Wilderness. Their height, like that of Tarahap and Hokap, seemed to be about 1800 feet.

The morning scene recalled to mind this quotation,

> What dreadful pleasure! there to stand sublime
> Like shipwrecked mariner on desert coast!
> And view the enormous waste, of vapour tost;
> In billows lengthening to the horizon round,
> Now scoop'd in gulfs, with mountains now emboss'd.

After twenty-eight miles, we came to the Humaris, or Rolling river, into the deep rocky bed of which we descended with difficulty, and found ourselves at the bottom surrounded by precipices of two or three hundred feet high. The guides searched about for water holes, and, at last, far under a rock, a cupful of the precious element was found for forty thirsty people and seventy parched oxen. A party stripped to the skin, and as diggers relieved one another to clear out the hole under the rock, and the people all drank sufficient, but the oxen only obtained two or three fillings each of a large metal dish we had for meat;—the poor things were much distressed. We slept close under a huge mass of granite, and expected a visit from a lion, whose fresh footmark was beside us—but he did not trouble us.

Next day, we passed along the bed of the Humaris, enclosed all the way with lofty cliffs, between which the heat was so great that I thought I should have got a stroke of the sun. We walked on foot, and rode the oxen occasionally. Saw numerous traces of rhinoceroses, but the animals themselves trotted away out of sight,

up the rocky glens which led into the river. A pursuit took place after a troop of zebras on the top of the bank, and one of them was shot.

Our course was E.S.E. We passed two pools of water, and had to slip down two or three dangerous steps of rocks which ran across the river's bed. The oxen, loaded and unloaded, had to bring their hind legs under them, and to slide down the smooth inclined plains, and we got along without any serious accident. At last we saw, in an opening between the rocks, the very refreshing sight of green trees, grass, and water; this was in the bed of our old friend the Kuisip. We gladly off-packed, after seventeen miles, under a mighty camel thorn, opposite the junction of the two rivers, and where we saw a lion had been in close pursuit after some baboons, who had escaped before him among Palma Christi, or castor oil plants.

Our herd of oxen had not seen more grass than would have satisfied one of them, since we had left the Kuisip at Hou'tous, three days before, and eighty miles distant; they now rioted in plenty; and we bipeds also felt very comfortable and happy with our respite from fatigue and

suffering. One of the men played "the Gorah's humming reed," which gives out wild tones like those of the Æolian harp, or of a distant horn. The instrument consists of a bow, part of the length of the string of which is a slip of ostrich quill; and this, being applied to the lips, gives out the melancholy sounds which so delight the tenants of the desert. Besides the meat of the zebra, I ordered our fattest heifer to be killed, and the people laid down to sleep, satisfied with abundance once more. We were indeed as well off as poor people could be in the wilderness, and I felt free from anxiety about water and game, for some distance at least, seeing that we had two capital Boschman guides with us.

After allowing Oahap, the elder of the two, to occupy himself for some time about the stomach of the heifer, I called to him to come and speak with me by the fire. He rose reluctantly, with a handful of bowels, and came and sat opposite me in no pleasant humour; but a pipefull of tobacco soon smoothed his brow.

"Have you," I said, "always lived about the Kuisip?"

"Yes."

"And your father before you?"

"Yes."

"What was he?"

"He was a great chief: the people under him stood like the reeds over the river, they were so many."

"What became of them?"

"Some were destroyed by wild beasts—as the lion, the elephant, and the rhinoceros; others were killed by the Damaras; and the rest died from hunger and old age. Of my people there are but few left now."

"Think now, and tell me," I continued, "what is the most wonderful thing you ever saw in your life?"

Oahap was sorely puzzled at this question. His range of observation had not extended far. He had apparently lived about sixty years in the world; he was tall and stout, still vigorous and active; and his "beat" had perhaps never extended beyond the branches of the River of Roots.

"The strangest thing I ever saw," said he, after a long inspiration, and swallowing the

smoke, " was this. One day, two of us found the fresh marks of a couple of rhinoceroses in a path. We made a little stone kraal by the side of the path, where my companion lay in wait with two assegaes in his hand, and I went off to look for the rhinoceroses, and to disturb them. I found them asleep some distance off, under the trees: one of them was an old cow, and the other a large calf-rhinoceros. I threw a stone, they stood up; I threw another, they looked round; and seeing me, the old one rushed at me in a great rage. I ran off to a tree; and had just got my feet off the ground in climbing it, when the rhinoceros drove her horns between my legs into the trunk of the tree; but I was not hurt. She then went off with her calf; they passed the kraal; and my companion, standing up, threw an assegae at the old one: she went a little way and fell. He stood up again, and threw the other assegae, when the calf also fell dead. I came on after the rhinoceroses, and seeing them both lying near the kraal, I jumped on the back of the big one and rode it for joy, and I cried out to my friend, 'Now I see you

are your father's son this day!' This, then, is the most wonderful thing I ever saw."

Here we killed the first pheasants we had seen: they are grey and brown speckled, and were excellent eating. This variety is new, is afterwards described, and we found them running in considerable flocks under the bushes and grass of the river's bank.

The Kuisip was here enclosed with hills; but the crags were not so impending, nor was the appearance of the river so forbidding as when we had first seen it at the Devil's Den. On the contrary, it was, at the junction of the Humaris, picturesque and agreeable.

On the 15th we packed up, and ascending, by a zebra path, the hills on the south side of the river, we travelled in an easterly direction, and up and down ravines, over much broken ground, and round immense masses of calcareous soil, which had slid down into the dry water courses; and, after four hours' hard work, we packed off in a hollow at Keree Kama, or jackal's water.

We sat at our evening meal in the bed of the small river; and a strange discussion took place

between old Choubib, Henrick Buys, &c., about the difference of colour in the human race—the difference of language—the creation of man, &c. Of this last, some of the Namaquas entertain this notion—that the Deity having created white men, the devil became envious, seeing what a wonderful and handsome creature had been formed; and he also tried his hand at making a man; but he could not make him otherwise than black like himself, so in a rage he struck his man a blow on the face, which flattened his nose: and hence the negro colour and feature!

Whilst these knotty points were under discussion, an alarm arose that a rhinoceros was bearing down upon us, and so it was. The monster was steering down the confined bed of the Keree Kama, for the small water place beside which we were sitting in the sand. Every one was on his feet in a moment; the meat dish was upset, and the precious "tea water" spilt in the sand, in the hurry to scramble up the rocks. But before we could get a shot at the rhinoceros, he "turned tail" and disappeared.

We were now in the country of the Damaras

of the Hills; and we saw over the broken ground we traversed on the 16th, single mountains rising in the most grotesque forms, serrated, and peaked, to the skies. We also crossed the fresh traces of several lions, and then reached a great plain surrounded with mountains. On the plain we saw in every direction zebras grazing in herds of six or eight. I had never seen before such a number of these beautiful animals together; we seemed to have got to their head quarters here; and we were not long in extending our files, and securing some zebra flesh for our supper.

At the extremity of the plain, on a rising ground under a hill, I saw the first Damara village, but no inhabitants. The huts were of a conical form, and were composed of stakes meeting at top, and covered with grass. Round the bottom outside were placed stones to keep the grass from being blown away. To some of the huts there was a sort of porch to exclude the wind. Each hut was about ten feet high; and the whole eighteen were arranged at some dis-

tance from each other, in a circle. In the middle was the dancing place; but there were no kraals for sheep or cattle.

The village was a mile distant from the water (a pool of the small river Numsep, or man's-kaross-lay-aside,) that the wild beasts might not be disturbed in their passage to the water by the vicinity of men. The hill above the village is a place of retreat; and it is the custom of the Damaras to sound an alarm, upon the sight of strangers, with a cow's or deer's horn, and to run up the hill to defend themselves, if necessary, with arrows and stones.

About the Numsep the number of rhinoceroses was very great; old and fresh traces were seen every where; and after a twenty miles' march, and packing off at the pool called Onakusis (or woman's-petticoat-water), with the mountains called Oosip (joining,) and 'Nabagno (or rhinoceros horn) to the north of us, the chase commenced, and continued for two days. Several rhinoceroses were wounded but not secured; but two zebras and a gemsbok were added to our

larder: whilst flocks of blue pigeons, night partridges, and even parrots frequenting the pool, gave us fowl as well as flesh to cook.

On the 18th we travelled E.S.E., and crossing a ridge, got into the bed of the Kuisip, or dung river, which was well lined with bushes, and full of rhinoceroses.

During the journey I had often endeavoured to find out traces of religion among the Boschmans and others; but I had hitherto been very unsuccessful. I have before alluded to the superstition of Heije Eibib, among the Namaquas; but among the Boschmans I had discovered nothing to indicate the faintest trace of religion, but now I did in a singular way.

We proceeded up the Kuisip, and among the grass we had excellent sport with numerous flocks of guinea fowl, which we had not seen since we left Habunap; and after thirteen miles, we packed off at two deep holes in a rock, full of excellent water, at a place called Abashouap, or "red man's child," when 'Numeep, the Boschman guide, came to me labouring under an attack of dysentery, and said that he was about to die!

I asked him what had occasioned the disease; and he said it was from having dug for water at the place called Kuisip, in the bed of the Kuisip River, near our last watering place, *without having first made an offering*, and that therefore he was sure to die unless I could help him. I gave him immediately two table spoonsful of olive oil on water, which relieved him—(I here beg to advise that no traveller be without this invaluable remedy for bowel complaints)—and I then asked him what he meant by saying that he had made no offering at Kuisip.

"Before any Boschman," said 'Numeep, "digs for water at Kuisip, he must lay down a piece of flesh, seeds of the 'naras fruit, or an arrow, or any thing else he may have about him and can spare, as an offering to Toosip, the old man of the water."

Now on this occasion 'Numeep had left nothing at the water, and was therefore afflicted for his neglect.

I asked 'Numeep if he had ever seen Toosip.

"No; I have never seen him, nor has any body else that I know of; but we believe that he

is a great red man with white hair, and who can do us good and harm. He has neither bow nor assegae, nor has he a wife."

"Do you say any thing to him when you put down your offering at the water-place?"

"We say, 'Oh! great father! son of a Boschman—give me food; give me the flesh of the rhinoceros, of the gemsbok, of the wild horse, or what I require to have.' But I was in such a hurry to drink this morning, that I scratched away the sand above the water, and took no notice of Toosip; and he was so angry, that if you had not helped me I must have died."

Having indulged too freely in zebra flesh at the last water, was doubtless the cause of 'Numeep's illness; but fear may have made him worse. I was very glad he had been ill; for owing to this, I found out a trace of worship among a very wild people.

We now saw miles of hedges, about three feet high, laid to direct the wild animals to pit-falls placed here and there for them; the pit-falls for the rhinoceros were four feet deep and four broad, with branches and leaves over them, and were

consequently not large enough to take in his whole bulk, but were only sufficient for his fore legs, which the people said was the best way of securing him, as his legs once in, they have no purchase with which to raise his body. There were also other means for securing the smaller game. Thus a cord formed of the inner bark of a tree was tied to a young sapling, a loop was made in the cord, and the sapling was bent down and fixed slightly to two cross sticks; the loop was opened and arranged on the ground above a hollow place and under a few blades of grass to conceal it, so that a deer, or even an ostrich, on passing through the opening where the noose was placed, and putting a foot through it, was immediately twitched into the air by one leg, and thus became the prey of the Damaras.

I ascended an eminence above Abashouap, and was much struck with the grandeur and beauty of this part of Damara Land. Looking towards the east, and at the distance of eight or ten miles, rose the huge mass of the 'Tans mountain, with its square top and furrowed sides; lesser heights were beside him, whilst the

whole country was a series of ridges and valleys, on which were scattered dwarf trees and bushes, whilst fine grass waved gently in the breeze in every direction.

Huts, three and four together, of the same construction as I had lately seen, were observed in many parts of the varied and extensive landscape; but I did not see a human being. The guides said that last year there had been a drought and famine in the land, many of the Damaras had died of hunger, and the others had moved off for a time to the eastward, where more rain had fallen.

Two rhinoceroses, an old dam and her weaned calf, were observed lying asleep under short and stout trees in a valley near Abashouap. They were cautiously "becrept," and the old one was shot. All night a party remained by it to cut and "vlek" the meat, for carrying off a quantity of it; and the young rhinoceros alarmed them by coming close to them in the night to look for its mother.

We had now in our pot at one time the flesh of the rhinoceros, zebra, gemsbok, and hare, also

guinea fowl and pigeon; but we had no biscuit or vegetables to render this variety palateable. One thing I now remarked, that after partaking of rhinoceros soup I was much stronger in walking and running than at other times; but the flesh of the rhinoceros is coarse and rank, and only does for a "bush appetite."

On the 19th we travelled S.E., and a large black snake, ten feet long, was seen steering towards some rocks with a hare in its mouth. The guides were disturbed at seeing this snake. "That is the komakasip," (or what-cannot-bear-the-sight-of-cattle), said they. "It is the most dangerous of the snakes in this land. A man runs but a short distance after he is bitten by the komakasip. Some time ago a Boschman discovered a honey nest not far from his hut, and he was creeping into the hole to rob the bees, when a komakasip bit him in the face. He ran home as fast as he could; but he fell dead before his own door."

We shot now some new birds about the size of a thrush, with blueish backs and yellow breasts: they are afterwards described. We

also got a small variety of magpie, black with white wings, and finches with red heads and speckled breasts. After nine miles of hill and dale, we packed off in a deep dell, at a place called Unus, or narrow river, with 'Tans towering four thousand feet above us on our left.

The cattle had fortunately become stronger within the last few days, with the sweet grass and the good water, and we were thus able to climb the steep and pathless offsets from 'Tans, (which are called Kumap, or the mountains of supplication), though the fatigue of doing so was very considerable. After five miles of a winding course on the 20th, we breakfasted at Eisees (or beautiful) Fountain, and then surmounting a very steep ascent, we zig-zagged down on the other side, and saw deep water courses still further below us, and a solitary eagle floating above us.

The perspiration poured in streams down the people, and the cattle were white with foam, when we got to the bottom of a valley, and commenced another ascent, steeper and more rugged than the last; but at length, after desperate efforts, we got all the cattle on a table

land, when the cool air refreshed us, and the magnificent prospect of many miles of mountain scenery towards Ababies, and the desert where we had nearly perished.

There was one consolation we had under all our fatigues, that no white man had ever before traversed the scenes amongst which we now toiled.

After an easy descent, and at the distance of thirteen miles from Eisees, we came to Chuntop, or sand path, a beautiful place under rocks, with high trees, and grass up to one's waist. The poor cattle roamed about among this, and were confounded with abundance.

"As in the storm that pours destruction round
Is here and there a ship in safety found;
So, in the storms of life, some days appear
More blest and bright for the preceding fear;
These times of pleasure that in life arise
Like spots in deserts, that delight, surprise,
And to our wearied senses give the more,
For all the waste behind us and before."

CHAPTER VI.

Visit of Hill Damaras — Their Appearance Described — Their Manner of Living—Rain—A Damara Village—The Women Described—Epithets of the Hill Damaras—What they Cultivate—Their Marriages—Dances—Punishments —Medical Practice—Manner of Interment—No Religion among them—They ought not to be neglected—Damara Duplicity—A Theft—An African Steppe—The Taop River—Large Community of Boschmans—The Brindled Gnu—A Boschman disguised as an Ostrich—Fatal Effects of this—Boschman Licentiousness—Extraordinary Cold—Game—The Bone Hills—A White Rhinoceros—The Birdstone and White Mountains—The Village of Naraes —Battles between the Namaquas and Damaras — The Author is Escorted to the Great Chief Aramap's Head Quarters—A Splendid Prospect—The Town of Ni-ais—Aramap Described—Comfortable Situation of the Expedition.

I NOW learned from my guides that we were in the immediate vicinity of a Heis, or Damara village, which had not been deserted, as the others had been, which we had already past. I had not allowed any firing for four and twenty hours, as I was afraid of alarming the Damaras, and I

now sent off Oahap alone, to prepare the Damaras for our seeing them, and to assure them that they should not be harmed in any way.

On the evening of the 18th of May, Oahap came down the glen, at the bottom of which we lay, with the head man of the Heis, and three others, at which I was much pleased.

These Hill Damaras were about five feet seven inches in height, and in colour and feature had all the characteristics of the negro, even to the projecting shin bone. They came with long staves in their hands, and without arms, in token of friendship and confidence, though perhaps their weapons were not far off. Their hair was peculiar; that is, it was cut off quite round the head, and an inch above the ear, leaving only the hair on the top of the head—in the manner of the Roundheads of the Cromwellian period. They wore short karosses of deer skin, and softened flaps of skin before and behind, to cover their nakedness; and in the hind flap, which was longer than the fore one, there was a pocket for holding roots, &c. They wore soles or sandals.

The head man was about forty-five years of age, and was a pleasant and communicative person. He said he would make one of his men guide us to the next village, Oahap and 'Numeep having fulfilled their bargain in bringing us among the Hill Damaras.

I asked the head man how he lived at this season, and he answered, "Badly enough. We are now eating mice, lizards,* roots, and sometimes leaves."

I inquired if he had always lived where he now did, and he said, "We have always lived among these hills; and we never knew of any other land."

I asked if he had any thing to do with the Damaras of the Plains. "No, nothing," said the head man, "they are our enemies; they are black like ourselves; but they speak a different language; we speak the language of the Namaquas; and the Damaras of the Plains, or Kamaka Damap (Cattle Damaras) speak a language of their own."

* The body of which has brown and yellow cross bars on it, and the tail is deeply serrated at the sides.

I told him that he and his people must not be frightened at white men, and that I intended visiting his village next morning. He answered, "Though we never have seen white men before, yet we always expected to do so. We heard always that they would one day come into the land, and we now see these strange men. I shall tell my people not to run away to-morrow."

Still adhering to the principle of not pitching the tent, when we were on the move, for the reasons before stated, we were rather inconvenienced by rain during the night at Chuntop; but as it was the first time we had heard rain drops for two months, the sound was not disagreeable, and now being amongst the fantastic rocks, grassy hills, and spreading trees of Damara land, we thought we should oftener experience refreshing showers than we had hitherto done.

We packed at sunrise, and the cattle going by a circuitous but easier path, north and east, I walked up the glen with a few men and riding oxen to the Damara village. We found it in a small mountain valley, surrounded with granitic rocks, amongst which were trees and shrubs,

and with a citadel hill close at hand to retire to, on occasions of alarm. The twelve conical huts were arranged in a circle, and we now saw Damara women as well as men.

The women had their hair cut in the same way as the men, and many of them had lost two joints of one of their little fingers, which they said they had got cut off when they themselves had been sick, or their children had been ill. Cowrie shells hung from their heads, and half way down their faces. They wore short karosses on the shoulders, and over the fore flap or apron there were hanging short thongs, on which were strung pieces of reed, bones of hares, beads, blue and white stones, &c. The hind flap, like the men's, was provided with a pocket, for what the Dutch call "veld kost," country food, as bulbs, the fruit of the mysembryanthemum, &c.

By the doors of the huts lay bows and arrows, like those of the Namaquas; and in the grassy covering of the huts was stuck the usual throwing assegae. Clay cooking pots of a conical shape were in every hut.

The Hill Damaras are a numerous nation,

extending from the heights south of the Swakop to the Little Koanquip river, and they live in small communities under head men, in the manner we now saw them doing, without one supreme or paramount chief of the nation. They are commonly called Koup Damap, or Dung Damaras, by way of reproach by the Namaquas, whilst the Namaquas themselves bear a similar contemptuous epithet, among their constant foes, the Damaras of the Plains. I think 'Humi or Hill Damaras is the best term for the people with whom we had now to deal.

"We call them Koup Damap," said a Namaqua, "because they keep nothing to kill, and not even dogs to catch the fauns of the springbok, as the Boschmans do."

As the Hill Damaras have no cattle to transport mat huts from one place to another (in the manner of the Namaquas), their huts are permanent, and last for a long time; and sometimes they are covered with bark instead of grass.

The Hill Damaras cultivate no grain, only sometimes raise a little tobacco.

Few people are more simple in their habits

than the Hill Damaras, and among them there are hardly any ceremonies on those occasions when most other nations show marked peculiarities. Thus, when a man wishes to marry a girl, he goes to the father, with a present of bulbs and striped mice, to feast the old gentleman; and if he is accepted as a son-in-law, he adds to *the onions and mice*, an assegae or two, bows and arrows, a couple of karosses of springbok or rabbit skins, &c. and some of which he gets back again. They then dance a little (they make no honey beer at a marriage), and the bridegroom carries off his wife to his own hut.

Among primitive folks, like the Damaras, none live in single *blessedness*.

" Happy and free are the married man's reveries,
Cheerily merrily passes his life,
He knows not the bachelor's revelries, revelries,
Caress'd by and bless'd by his children and wife,
Thus is each day one lovely holiday;
Not so the bachelor lonely, deprest,
No gentle one near him, no home to endear him,
No sorrow to cheer him, no friend if no guest."

The dance of the 'Humi Damap is somewhat similar to that which I had seen among the

Boschmans. The women stand in a row, clapping their hands and singing, "Hey, he heyho! hey he hey! ho hoo!" whilst the men, with their sandals in their hands and with springbok's horns bound on their foreheads (which give them a Satanic appearance) stamp and dance round slowly before the women, and grunt in chorus.

The Damaras play on the gorah, which is their only musical instrument. The Hill Damaras do not practise circumcision, as is the custom among the Kamaka Damap, and Caffres. In this respect the Humi Damap are like the Namaquas.

If a woman happens to curse or abuse her husband, they cannot sleep together any more; and the woman must then "eat from her own hand," or support herself—but they seldom curse. If a woman goes into the field to search for bulbs, she never tastes them till her husband has first eaten of them. In cases of adultery the adulterer is killed, and the woman is severely flogged by her husband. The Hill Damaras take unto themselves as many wives as they can maintain.

A young Damara doctor showed me the way he cured his patients, and it was laughable enough. He provided himself with a clean wooden milk vessel, or bambus, and applying it, covered with a piece of skin, to the breast of a man who was lying on his side and groaning as if sick, he (the doctor) then left him, and sitting down opposite a stone, he began to strike it with the stick of his fox-tail *handkerchief*, and to sing at the same time, "To, to, to, tehei; to, to, to, tehei." After which he got up and danced round, and looked as if for something on the ground, at last he stopped suddenly, and appeared to find what he sought, and calling out "het, het," sharply, he goes to the bambus, and taking it from the patient's chest, on which he blows, he pretends to find some blood, or grease, or a bone in the bambus, which had been introduced by sleight of hand. The bambus is then carefully covered over, the doctor runs off with it a little way, and buries what he pretends to have conjured from the patient, in the sand, and then stamps over it, and the sick man is now supposed to be cured!

On the death of a person, a pit is dug, and the

corpse is placed in it in an upright position, and stones, bushes, and earth are placed about and over it, to prevent the wild dogs, wolves, or crows, eating the body.

Notwithstanding that some people maintain that there is no nation on earth without religion in some form, however faintly it may be traced in their minds, yet, after much and diligent inquiry, I could not discover the slightest feeling of devotion towards a higher and an invisible power among the Hill Damaras; neither had they any fear of an evil influence.

They believe in nothing but what they see. "Who gives you your food?" I asked.

"We get our living from the air—from the seasons," answered an old Damara.

"Why dont you keep sheep or goats, that you might live better than you do?"

"We have been afraid of losing them; we wished to keep them, but we thought the Boschmans would rob us of them. Now we think ourselves strong enough to defend ourselves and our property against the Boschmans, and we must try and get flocks."

"When you die, what becomes of you?"

"When we die we are buried, and are then no better than the beasts."

"Are you afraid to die?"

"Yes, very much; and we are afraid when we see people ill, because we think it may be our turn next—we try not to think of dying."

"Who do you think made the sun and moon, and all you see about you in the world?"

"We dont know; we are a stupid people; we never think of this. What is the use of thinking of it? no one ever told us any thing about these things, and how could we know any thing about them; all we want to know is, where to get a large animal to kill and eat."

"Do you, on any occasion, go to any particular place and make an offering there? For instance, do you go to a heap of stones and throw a stone on the heap; or put a branch on it; or leave a bit of skin on a bush anywhere?"

"No, we never do these things; we are a stupid people; we dont know or do any thing but look for food, and dance when we have got plenty."

I have given this conversation held with a Damara apparently as intelligent as the generality of the natives; and I think from it there is evidence sufficient to prove, that beyond their daily wants, the Damaras have no thought of any thing else; and "that," as Choubib, the interpreter, said, "they believe in neither God nor devil."

The mind of this ignorant people is like a "tabula rasa," ready to receive any impression, good or bad. There are apparently no superstitious notions among them to overthrow, no idol worship, no bowing down to stocks or stones. That they may at no distant day bow down to the true God, and that their minds may be instructed, and their spiritual and temporal condition improved, ought to be the earnest prayer and the endeavour of every lover of his species, who has the means to assist them.

I left the village, and with an old Damara guide, who was as fleet as a hare, we passed rapidly through grassy vallies, to intercept the pack-oxen, and the people with them. We were

now to the eastward of 'Tans, and we had striking views of this noble mountain.

"Is there much game in this field?" I asked the old Damara.

"None," said he, when immediately after, to give the lie to this assertion, a large troop of white legged zebras, with sleek coats shining in the sun, galloped across the plain, pursued by some of our hunters, and we saw besides many traces of other wild animals here.

The "trek," or pack-oxen, now appeared, and from one of the drivers we heard of a loss which I had just sustained. The driver was entrusted with one of the boarding pikes, and seeing a pack loose, he gave his pike to a Damara at his elbow, to hold. After the pack was arranged, the driver looked about for the pike, and he saw the Damara making the best of his way with it up a hill above the party, and deaf to cries and threats, he disappeared over the top, thus affording us an example of Damara roguery. The quantity of iron about a boarding pike was a temptation for a Damara which he could not possibly resist.

We were now on a table land stretching from 'Tans eastward, one of the great steppes of South Africa, and the thermometer was 65°, in the middle of the day. On our right was one of the principal sources of the 'Oup or Fish river, round the head of which we were now journeying. We passed along with ease and comfort over a level surface, and arrived at the Taop or Cragless river, a branch of the Kuisip; here we found food and water for the oxen.

A number of Boschmans, tall and stout, (as those to the north of the mouth of the Great River usually are,) now visited us, and said their heis was a short distance off. I went a mile and a half and found twenty huts of stakes and bushes in a hollow. On some of the huts lay skins of antelopes of various kinds, which had not yet been prepared for clothing. I saw also some strange horns like those of a small cow, a mane, tail, and hoofs of an animal I had not yet seen; but I found out afterwards that these were parts of a Kaop, (master) buck or brindled gnu.

This is a very remarkable variety of antelope. It is about the size of a galloway; of a brown

colour, with dark streaks over the body. The withers rise much higher than those of any horse, but the shape of the neck and body is somewhat equine. It has a long black mane above and below the neck, and a switch tail of the same hue. The horns are like those of the buffalo, but much smaller, and lie across the top of the forehead, then curve outward and upwards.

The Kaop is not found in this district in herds; they are oftenest found singly, or at most two or three together. It is a bold and resolute animal, and it is very dangerous when wounded, hence its name of "Master."

I was anxious to know how the Boschmans managed to kill the Kaop; and remarking two light frames covered with ostrich feathers, grey and black, on a tree, I asked them, through my chasseur Henrick, what they were. The Boschmans said, "with these we disguise ourselves as ostriches, and thus get near the Kaop, to shoot it with our arrows."

A present of tobacco induced a Boschman to disguise himself. He placed one of the feather

frames on his shoulders and secured it about his neck; then taking from a bush the head and neck of an ostrich, through which a stick was thrust, he went out a little way from the huts with a bow and arrow in his left hand, and pretending to approach a Kaop, he pecked at the tops of the bushes in the manner of an ostrich, and occasionally rubbed the head against the false body, as the ostrich ever and anon does to get rid of flies. At a little distance, and sideways, the general appearance of the Boschman, was like that of "the giant bird," though a front view betrayed the whole of the human body. Approaching sufficiently near to the Kaop, which of course has nothing to dread from its feathered companion of the plains, the Boschman slips the ostrich head between his neck and the frame, and cautiously taking aim, discharges his arrow at the deceived Kaop.*

I was much amused with this manner of approaching game, and I contrasted it with the laughable way the Persians have of getting near partridges and quails, with a second pair of

* See end of chapter.

trousers rising from the shoulders, so as to make a strange figure with four legs (a pair of which are carried in the air), and thus confounding the birds with its novelty. Here the game were deluded by the approach of an object which was familiar to them.

But the Boschmans sometimes suffer when thus disguised. One approached an ostrich with a feather frame, and wounded it, when the bird ran at the disguised Boschman, and with its terrible toe-nail ripped him open from the breast downwards, and killed him on the spot.

The Boschmans of the Taop intimated that they wanted to come and dance at our "off-pack place" in the evening. Accordingly, a few of the men, and two or three dozen of the women came, and after I had lain down, they, with the assistance of our Namaquas, made a large fire, and the usual "Oh! ei oh! ei oh!" song, and clapping of hands commenced, which kept me awake for some time. In the morning, I found that the Bosch-people here had been as little scrupulous as those at Ababies, and all for the sake of a little of the zebra flesh we had.

At sunrise it was bitter cold, the thermometer indicating 40°, with a cutting easterly wind.

On the 22d we continued our journey, on one of the most disagreeable mornings for cold I almost ever experienced, though I had spent a winter in Russia. But there, fur-covered, one sets a temperature of 40° below freezing, at defiance; now we were not so well prepared for great cold, particularly those of the party whose raiment was scanty, or torn with the bushes in hunting.

Burns thus sings of certain comforts which we had no chance of obtaining for some time—

> " Fortune! if thou'll but gie me still
> *Hale breeks*, a scone, and whiskey gill
> And routh o' rhyme to rave at will,
> Take a' the rest,
> And deal 't about as thy blind skill
> Directs thee best.

A few days before, I dreaded a stroke of the sun from the intense heat in the bed of the Humaris, now the blood was frozen in the veins. These extremes are sufficiently trying for the health, and have a tendency, in conjunction with

hard work, to make a traveller older in appearance, than he is in years; but that is a trifle, if his constitution is still sound, and he has not been idly employed.

We passed over a most beautiful grassy plain, with scattered bushes and sand heaps, and on it we saw two or three rhinoceroses at a distance, but our fingers were so benumbed that we could not have pulled a trigger. The Karoo Koran, or small red bustard, flew up here and there to tempt us, but the cold took sporting out of us, till towards midday, when we saw gazing at us among some dwarf trees, a brindled gnu. This immediately fired us. The gnu shook his black mane and pawed the ground impatiently; we ran and crept towards him, but it was all in vain. He switched his tail at us, and went off at a hand gallop, presenting the appearance of a horned horse. Two or three others were seen, but we were equally unsuccessful with them.

We halted, after twelve miles, to cook and eat, beside a pool, and saw on our right the group called Kobip, or the Bone Hills. Continuing our journey on foot, for the cold, after six-

teen more miles, we off-packed in the dry bed of the Chunchuap (or Hare Hole) River. Next morning, after an uncomfortable night from cold, we breakfasted at Chama, or Soft River, four miles. After which we saw a huge white or cream-coloured rhinoceros, on a hill, which moved about impatiently as the hunters ran up towards it. It seemed a mountain of flesh, and was, apparently, upwards of seven feet high. It went off with a ball in its neck.

The proportions of the head of the white rhinoceros are different from those of the black. The mouth is square; and the foremost horn is always, I believe, much longer in the white than the hind one. The fore-horn of the white specimen we had just seen, seemed to be between three and four feet long; and Henrick the hunter said, he had seen them up to one's shoulder. The white rhinoceros eats grass, and is a timid animal compared with the savage black species, which commonly charges, whether wounded or not; whereas the white variety tries to effect its escape.

On our left were the very picturesque moun-

tains about two thousand feet high, called Aantup and Uep, or the Bird Stone and White Mountains; and twenty-six miles brought us with Boschmen guides, to our surprise, to a large Heis or village of Namaquas, called Naraes (or fall-over,) on the Oanop, or Tell-tale River.

The Namaquas of Naraes were part of the people of the powerful chief Aramap, who lay still further in advance, and who had lately driven the Damaras of the plains from the beautiful and abundant country we now saw, beyond the Swakop. The Cattle-Damaras had, of late years, encroached greatly on the old Namaquas of the Upper Fish River, and were driving them before them down the river, when the conquered, being unprovided with guns, called on Aramap of the Africaner family for help, who came with some guns and stout fellows from near the Orange River, defeated the Damaras in three bloody fights, in 1835, took their cattle from them, conciliated the hill Damaras, and became the great chief of this part of the country.

The Namaquas were very civil. We felt ourselves quite at home among them, and were

glad to see mat huts again. There was milk and honey beer in plenty; on which last Choubib, as was his wont, got very drunk and quarrelsome. I had some difficulty to keep my hands off the old fellow, for he insisted on my buying an ox from the man who had treated him, and who wanted some of our goods, which I did not wish to open till we got to Aramap's head-quarters.

On the 24th of May, Aramap's brother, with several other Namaquas, came on riding oxen, and in their best apparel to meet me, and to conduct me to the great chief. I left Naraes with them. We passed over one of the finest plains I had seen in Africa, covered with sweet grass, and with high trees, and bushes dispersed on it in detached groups, and among which wild horses were seen. We approached the banks of a river with a strange name, for such a scene, the Kei-kurup, or "First ugly river," and we found its banks rather steep, and with pools of water in its bed, which was about seventy yards broad. Looking across it, there appeared to be a great town of Namaqua and Hill Damara huts,

round and conical. The whole plain was covered with huts, in hamlets of five and six together, and cattle and sheep-kraals were beside there. We had got then to "the fertile plains and fine cattle country," which were laid down from native report on Arrowsmith's map, and I was much rejoiced to think that the ship of war had not come for us, or we should have missed seeing the three hundred miles of new country we had just passed over, after leaving Walvisch Bay, and the very fine region for grass and game we were now in.

The landscape, besides being beautiful from the abundance of trees and pasture, (amongst which large herds and flocks were seen grazing in every direction,) was imposing by reason of the picturesque and primitive mountains to the north and east, and placing the town of Niais (or very black) as it were in a vast amphitheatre. The first mountain to the north had four summits, and as it had no particular name, I dignified it with that of the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, as Captain Beaufort had been of the greatest assistance to the expedition. The most distant

mountain, a blue peak, (Karubees, or Roll Mount,) was subsequently named at the Royal Geographical Society after myself, whilst south of this was Huhap, Thorn Glen Mountain, Hubies, (much, or) the Great Mountain, eighteen hundred feet high, square topped, with a peak at the southern extremity, and whose sides were deeply furrowed. South of Hubies was Nahabip, or Tortoise Mountain, and some minor heights. I named this group of mountains, the most picturesque I had seen, after our most gracious Sovereign Lady the Queen.

After enjoying the view of the detached mountains and of the plains at their feet, and calculating that in the scattered town of Niais, there must have been about one thousand two hundred souls, I crossed the Kei-kurup, and halted on the other bank, where I directed the people to unload the cattle. Aramap now came from his hut attended by several of his old people. He was a little, modest looking man, with the usual Namaqua features, as to high cheek bones, narrow eyes, and prominent lips, but his nose was slightly inclined to aquiline.

He had nothing in his outward man to denote the bold and intrepid warrior, who had beaten the formidable tribe of Kamaka Damap, and had thus saved the Namaquas of the Upper Fish river from annihilation. But Aramap, like other great commanders, though short, is distinguished by a daring mind, by good judgment, and by very active habits.

He said that it was unsafe to "pack off," near the river, for lions swept along it almost nightly, and had lately carried off both sheep and cattle from his people; accordingly we carried up the baggage, with assistance, to a clear space adjoining Aramap's hut, who erected mat screens to shelter the people, and who did all in his power to render us comfortable.

Here then was I now at Niais, far in the interior of Africa, but seated once more in my tent, and in the midst of abundance! It is true that we might be attacked by Kamaka Damaras, but having Aramap near me, who knew so well how to deal with them, I had no anxiety on this score. We might now have swam in milk if we had been so disposed; night and morning the

women brought us great quantities to exchange for large eyed needles; Choubib also had opportunities for getting drunk on honey beer, and though we had nothing in the shape of bread or vegetables, yet of flesh we had plenty. Aramap gave me a handsome present of pack and slaughter oxen, and of sheep. I gave him a cloak, medal, pipe, shawls, axes, beads, handkerchiefs, &c. in return, and we became great friends.

CHAPTER VII.

Inquiries about further Progress—Impediments—the Kamaka Damaras and the Kallihari Desert—the Nosop River—Elephants—a beautiful Oasis—Queen Adelaide's Baths—a grand Reed Dance—Kilfuddie—the Kamaka Damaras described—their Names—Language—Comparative Table of South African Languages—Feats of Strength—a Damara Warrior—Hand to Hand Fighting—the Dress of the Women—The Huts—a Bed of Thorns—Religious Belief—Marriages—Burials—Manner of making Peace Manner of Trading with the Namaquas and the Portuguese—Provisions for the Road—Accident with a Rhinoceros—Birds of the Tropic—a grand Lion Hunt.

SEEING that I could now get supplied for our further progress, through the kindness of Aramap, who abundantly proved himself to be as liberal as he was brave, one of the first inquiries I made was, "can we proceed further to the north or east; for I am extremely anxious to pass either through the Damaras of the plains, or to travel towards the Eastern Ocean?"

"I am sorry that you cannot do either," said

Aramap, "or I might make an arrangement to accompany you."

"Cannot we send a message to the Kamaka Damap, to tell them we are coming as friends?"

"It is impossible, no one would take a message from this for any reward; for the messenger would be sure of death among a people so wild, and so exasperated against us for turning them out of this country. The Damaras cannot be approached from this side; they can only be seen by going by sea to the coast, and from thence communicating with them, though even then they might be suspicious of being carried off for slaves."

"Since you say it is so difficult to proceed from hence across the Swakop, what is to prevent us travelling towards the rising sun, there are no Damaras in that direction to interfere with us?"

"No Damaras," said Aramap, "but a desert without a drop of water for men or cattle."

"I know there is a desert to the north and west of Latakoo, which it is impossible to cross; but we are far to the north of the Bechuana

country, and I was in hopes that we had got beyond the Kallihari desert also, and that a belt of well watered country stretched across Africa from where we now are, to the country of the Maquainas, and the settlements of the Portuguese on the east coast."

"This is not the case," replied Aramap; "none of the Namaquas or Hill Damaras have ever been able to travel to the east from where we now are, and no natives from the Bechuana country have ever come across as far up as where we are now. I have been at Latakoo myself, but to reach it from the banks of the Fish river, I was obliged to travel, first south, towards the Orange. I next went up it, and then by Griqua-town, I reached the Bechuanas. In going east from this, after the mountains are passed, nothing but sand and bushes are seen; water, as I said before, there is none. One can get some distance to the south-east from this (though not as far as Latakoo), and find food and water. I went thus to the Nosop river (or river of the Bechuanas), a short time ago, twenty days south east of this, to shoot elephants, and I got thirty

pair of tusks. I passed the Kusip and the Kubakop rivers on my way to the Nosop."

"What sort of a river is the Nosop?"

"It is a river with plenty of bushes and a stony bed. In this the elephants had made holes with their tusks, and into these they had inserted their trunks to drink. There are plenty of elephants about the Nosop, and it took two or three men to lift some of the tusks."

Many of my readers are aware that in Ceylon, where there is plenty of water and grass, most of the elephants are tuskless; whereas in South Africa, where many of the rivers are periodical, and water and grass are often scarce, almost all the elephants are provided with tusks for defence against the rhinoceros, to obtain water in the manner just described by Aramap, and to dig up the mimosas, to eat the sweet and nutricious roots.

Travelling to the north-east from Niais, the first day's journey brings one to the source of the Kusip river, and the second to Awaz, or the Bean Mountain, near which is the source of the Kuisip (from which river Niais is only one day's

journey distant), and at Awaz is one of the sources of the Swakop. The Nosop also rises here, and sweeping to the east, say the natives, it takes a turn towards Latakoo, and then pursuing a southerly course, it empties itself into the Orange river.

Three days from Niais, a remarkable and beautiful spot is reached. A long green hill terminates in a peak; from the north and south sides of the hill descend streams from hot and cold springs; those which issue from the southern slope are lost in a plain of the richest verdure, whilst the northern streams unite and form a lake several miles long, with reedy margin, and where many new birds and fish are to be found. Another hot spring is to the west of the lake, and from which issues the principal source of the "elephant-abounding" Swakop.

The Kamaka Damaras were most anxious to retain the springs about what I named Queen Adelaide's Baths; and they fought there the last battle with Aramap and his Namaquas; but now no one occupies this beautiful oasis, the constantly watered and evergreen plain round

the Baths. It is too much in advance for Aramap, and without constructing high stone kraals there, the Namaquas would soon lose their cattle, and perhaps their own lives by the Damaras.

The weather at Niais was delightfully cool; the thermometer was at 65° at sunrise, and at 70° in the middle of the day. "The rainy season," said Aramap, "is two months hence (in August) in this part of South Africa."

Immediately after the arrival of the expedition at Niais, Aramap ordered a grand reed dance to take place, and at least an hundred women came before the tent, young and old. A full band of reed-players blew and stamped, as before described, the women clapped their hands, sang, and ran round the players; and there was dust and noise to our hearts' content. There was one old woman here with ostrich feathers in her hair, who was one of the most persevering dancers I ever saw, for she danced for two or three days after the above beginning. There seemed to be no tiring her throat, palms, or heels, and I thought at last she would meet with

the fate of the dame described in this elegant Scotch rhyme—

"There was an auld wife, and they ca'ad her Kilfuddie,
And aa body said she wad gang to the wuddie,
But I think she deed in a better commaund,
For she danced her to dead at her ain house end!"

Among the Namaquas of Niais there were several Kamaka Damaras, of both sexes, prisoners of war, captives of the bow and spear. The young men were square built, and the finest specimens of bone and muscle I had almost ever seen, whilst their skins shone like polished ebony. The young women were tall and graceful, and with features much handsomer than those of the Namaquas, or Hill Damaras.

The men opened their mouths and showed me the mark of their nation: it consisted in the loss of the two lower front teeth, and in the two upper being filed, so as to leave an opening between them like the letter A.

I questioned these Kamaka Damaras till I tired them, regarding their people beyond the Swakop.

The Damaras of the plains are a great nation, and their country is full of cattle—"which," say the Namaquas, "they get from a cave as they require them; so there is no great harm in our taking a few from them now and then, as they can easily make up the loss." They call themselves Oketenba Kacheheque, or Omotorontorondoo, and their language is soft and pleasant to the ear, abounds in vowels, and is quite free from clicks. I subjoin a short table of it, also of the Namaqua language, of that of the Amakosa Caffers, and of that of Delagoa Bay, the first time that these four have been compared.

TABLE OF DIALECTS.

	Damara.	Namaqua.	Amakosa.	Tembé.
A man	omdenkoonee	kooep	indota	moofo
A woman	inkonum-omkodentu	taras	umfas	umfat
A child	omaché	'toaee	umtooana	munwhana
Father	otalé	saŏp	bao	baba
Mother	komama	saoos	maa	mama
Brother	omtenaquainke	sa'kap	nenawé	munaguam
Sister	omtena	sa'kas	dadewabo	tatooam
Ground	esi	'thoop	goomthlaba	moothlaba
Grass	ethodoo	'tkap	ee'na	booeané
Tree	omobontee	heip	goomtee	mootè
Water	omeba	'kums	goomansee	gumatee
Fire	omoreero	'eis	umdeloo	moolelo
Flesh	omiama	'kunee	iama	inyama
Fish	oseema	'oup	intlansee	inthlante
Fowl	ontera	aneep	intaka	inyonee
An ox	ontoombee	koomap	inkabee	eeabee
A cow	onkotententoo	koomas	imasee	eeomogátee
A bull	ontoentoo	'kop	inconsee	eeontee
A calf	ontana	champ	itolee	eeunyaná
A sheep	ondontoo	koos	goosha	eenfee
A lamb	ontona	korooee	inkoeana-igoosha	eentenyanee
A goat	ononkonbo	poorees	bok	eembootee
A kid	okankombo	pooreeroee	inkoeana ibok	letenganee leembootee
A horse	onkora	'hâp	yehash	e
Milk	omeisi	deiee	amas	loobĕs
A dog	omva	areep	eenja	eenja
An elephant	ontóoo	'koap	inglovoo	inthlov
A rhinoceros	onkaba	'nabas	oomkonbee	shoo sho shoo
A snake	onoka	'aop	eeoka	inyoka
A horn	obona	'naop	impondo	loopontoo
Tobacco	kumakaéa	'tubaccace	eekooba	efŏlee
An assegae	enka	'kooap	goomkontoo	moó ónoo
A kaross	oombanta	'numee	ingooboo	inkoobo
Good	omdehenta	esahooee	nobom	koothley
Bad	ochunkoontee	'hoatoma	embee	goobee
Big	omodee	kei	inkooloo	ookooloo
Little	okateechĕ	'kurees	'inkanee	goonanee
Warm	omebaté	'kumchee	eshooshoo	peeachesa
Cold	ombepera	'keia	yebanda	komo kato
One	emoonjé	'kooé	senyé	eenya
Two	embaré	'tâm	subené	impeytee
Three	datoo	'oona	sitatoo	inatoo
Four	ené	haka	zené	moonee
Five	indan	koree	silthlanoo	ithlan
Six	eambomé	'nanee	siput thlongo	tegatoopakoo
Seven	eambombaree	hoo	isikéiné	natumbetoo
Eight	eambomdatoo	'keisa	siput thongo	toopakool natim atoo
Nine	eamboené	koŏsé	sitoba	neuthlandee
Ten	himorong	deesee	ishoomee	eshoomo.

From the above specimens it will be seen how little similarity there is between the Damara and Namaqua languages, and again how much they differ from the Amakosa and Tembé languages, which last are different dialects of the same language. The inverted commas are the clicks of the tongue.

As every thing connected with the Kamaka Damaras is exceedingly interesting, I beg to subjoin a few more words of their language.

Sun	elooba	Hard	obekokooto
Moon	omedé	Soft	obetarahoo
Wind	obebo	Sweet	ochewa
Cloud	oboora	Sour	obĕrooroo
Head	onacheesee	Dry	quakaha
Arm	okoó óko	Wet	okokoturet
Hand	omaké	High	okokouree
Eye	omeho	Low	obesh
Ear	homachooe	Sharp	okohoka
Tooth	omaéo	Blunt	ojeboomo
Blood	obetoo	Black	oche norondoo
Day	herero	White	oche sorondoo
Night	oudook	Red	oche serondoo
War	obet	Yellow	ombaka
Peace	koonahangé	Blue	oche honee
Weary	bou ogwa	Green	stadoo
Hungry	tatochera	Angry	owapindeke
Thirsty	patenyouda	Sick	weiberee

The Kamaka Damaras are believed to be the most muscular nation in South Africa, from the healthy climate they inhabit, and from their good living, for they have always plenty of

flesh. I could not ascertain that they cultivated any thing except tobacco.

The stories told of the feats of strength of the men are strange enough. Thus, when they wish to kill an ox, one man, it is said, will take it by the tail and swing it round, and thus throw it down, or he will take it by the horns and throw it on its side, then turning it on its back, and placing his knee on its breast, and grasping its throat with his hands, he strangles it. This way of killing cattle may probably arise from a desire to save the blood. In another work, I described the extraordinary manner in which the Caffers kill an ox, that the blood may not be wasted.

When a lion kills any thing belonging to a Damara, the people of the village assemble, and go out with the man who has lost his property; but he only must kill the lion: the others are merely spectators.

The *naked* Damaras is another name for the Kamaka Damap, for when not engaged in war they only wear fore and after aprons of softened skin. In war their appearance is picturesque

and formidable — a bunch of ostrich feathers waves on their brows, their woolly hair is worn long, over their shoulders is thrown a kaross of lion or leopard's skin, a leather band is twisted many times round the waist to support them, and in this is stuck some arrows when they have begun fighting, and have thrown away their skin quiver; in their right hand is a short and heavy club; (one which I have got is of dark red wood, and looks as if it had been turned), in the left hand is a long bow, also a strange broad-bladed javelin, five feet long, the shaft and blade composed of iron, and without any wood work about it, (half of the shaft of one in my possession is cased in leather, that it may be grasped more firmly), sharp pointed sandals are on the feet, ivory rings and beads are on the wrists and neck.

After a discharge of arrows the Kamaka Damaras close with their enemies, attempt to knock out the brains with the club, and stab upwards with their iron assegae, which is not intended for throwing. The Zoolas of the country behind Natal also use one assegae (with a *wooden* shaft), and make a desperate onset with it, like High-

landers with broad swords, whereas other South African nations hurl their light assegaes from a distance, and therefore are not half so formidable as the hand-to-hand-warriors.

> " Like waves of ocean rolling fast,
> Or thunder clouds before the blast,
> The swarthy legions stern and vast
> Rush to the dreadful revelry."

The women of the Kamaka Damaras wear a conical cap of softened skin, with loaf-shaped pieces of stiff leather all round it. They also have got a fore flap of skin depending from the middle, and a hind one; the former is the longest. They wear copper ornaments, and rows of ostrich shell beads arranged *perpendicularly* round the waist.

The huts of the Kamaka Damap are small and conical, are composed of stakes wattled with branches, and plastered with mud, and are covered with hides. The entrance is low, and the huts are comfortable and warm, owing to the want of karosses among the inmates. The bed is composed of branches of thorny mimosa, on which skins are spread. This strange couch may have been adopted to guard against snakes. The

Kamaka Damaras do not cook in their huts, but outside, and the men do not eat with the women.

The Kamaka Damaras believe in a Great Spirit, in one powerful unseen being, of whom they are afraid.

When a couple have determined on marriage they go together to the young woman's father's house, when he kills an ox or more to feast on; the party then goes to the bridegroom's place, and there he kills as many head as his father-in-law did, and thus the marriage is concluded.

When a man dies two oxen are killed, of the flesh of one of them the young men only eat, the other is an offering for the dead; and in the hide of this last the body is buried, in a sitting position, whilst the ox's head and horns are set in a tree over the grave.

When the Namaquas wished to be at peace with the Kamaka Damaras, they went with unpeeled sticks in their hands, and with the feathers of a spotted duck in their hair, and sat down on a hill opposite a Damara village. Their late enemies then came to them, and taking the

Namaquas by the hand, they led them to water, which they threw violently over them, perhaps to wash away all enmity between them. The Namaquas were then taken to the village and distributed in different houses, but were not allowed to wander about spying, though the Damaras assumed that privilege when they came among the Namaquas.

Each Damara host then killed a beast for his guest, and it was expected that it should be all eaten up, (which the Namaquas were, doubtless, never loath to attempt to accomplish); and when the Namaquas departed, each was presented with a lean calf, which he was to rear carefully, and it was understood, that as long as it lived, so long was friendship to continue between the donor and the receiver of the gift.

In trading with the Damaras, and exchanging an axe for an ox, for instance, and the ox is killed for a feast, the Damara will look for half a day at his purchase, and if at last he discovers a flaw in it, he will immediately bring it back, throw it down, and take up what remains of the ox without saying a word.

"We were in the habit," said one of the women, (a fine negress), "of going to an inlet of the sea, where the women left the men with the cattle, and were taken across in a boat to the other side, where white men wearing hats were seen; these people we call Oban in the Damara language, another name for ourselves is Obantoo-bororontoo, and the Namaquas we call Obatchna."

"With the Oban we exchanged our cattle for iron to make javelins, for copper to make beads, and we also got knives and calabashes from them. We would not allow the Obans to come into our country. If the Damaras go to white people they go as friends; but the Damaras will not allow white men to enter their country, if they do, they must be considered as enemies."

Where the Creek or Bay is, to which the Damaras resort to trade with the Portuguese, it would be interesting to find out, for at that point they could best be communicated with, and as they are a fine manly race, and as I heard of no bloody rites or cruel practices among them, a stranger might be safe among them, if he

managed in the first instance to disarm their suspicions. Great Fish Bay is in 17° south latitude nearly, possibly it may be there, where the Damaras see the Oban.

As we had still much ground to go over, which ever way we steered, I was resolved that we should not again be on the verge of starvation, as we had hitherto often been, accordingly I increased my flock to the number of 160, and for each new sheep or goat which I purchased, I paid according to Aramap's desire and the country practice, a knife, a handkerchief, or a tinder-box, that is less than sixpence a-head. I also bought some oxen for gown pieces, shawls, axes, beads, &c., as I anticipated that some of my old and worn-out cattle would soon perish by the way.

It was a fine sight in the evening, the herds and flocks returning from their pastures, where they had been grazing in company with zebras and steenboks, (by creeping amongst a herd of cattle one day, Elliot shot a male zebra), clouds of dust rose on every side on the plain at sun-down, and cattle and sheep in thousands were

seen pouring towards the huts, that they might be safer from lions there, than at a distance from the men and dogs.

Some of the people went after a white rhinoceros one day, not far from Niais. They rapidly pursued it, and it fled before them, when, in passing a clump of bushes, a black rhinoceros rushed out on the hunters; they scattered themselves immediately, and attempted to escape, but the last of the party was caught on the terrible horn and thrown into the air. When he fell on the ground on his back, he had the presence of mind to lie quite still, and with his eyes nearly closed. The brute then made short rushes at him, snorting and smelling to ascertain if he still lived, but he lay as if dead, for he knew that if he had moved, he would have been instantly gored and trampled to death. In the meantime the rest of the hunters, missing their companion, turned, and seeing what the rhinoceros was about, they gave him a shot in the breech, which sent him off screaming, and with his tail between his legs. The man who had been tossed was brought to me, but the only

injury I found he had sustained was a slight graze on one leg, and which a simple plaster put to rights.

We shot many beautiful birds here, particularly coracias (with crimson and white speckled breasts, and blue wings), a short tailed species of which, as I before mentioned, alights on the horn of the rhinoceros. The birds were here more brilliant in plumage than we had yet seen, and doubtless the feathered tribes would have gone on increasing in beauty and in variety, if we could have got further beyond the tropic, and approached nearer the line. I was glad we had got so far as we had done, and to feel myself fresh and alive. No one can accomplish all he attempts in this world of trials.

It was on the evening of Sunday the 28th May, that I was pacing in front of my tent, and enjoying the starlight—whilst the people were wrapping themselves in their sheep-skins and lying down to sleep, contented and happy, after plentiful meals of flesh and milk, and a social pipe—when I heard a woman's voice calling out at some distance in the Namaqua language, "Keiré

huéteyré!" (stand up and help, friends!) then a great fire was made, and the dogs began barking loudly. I roused Henrick Buys, and we tried to find out what was the matter, but could not. The cattle seemed uneasy, and moved about; but in a little time all was still. "It must have been lions," said Henrick.

Next morning we found the traces of three lions coming straight to the tent, but they had been turned off by the dogs. They had then made attempts to get into the town at two other places, but had been again scared by fires, and the faithful guardians of the night.

At eight o'clock a man came in from the field, and reported that one of my oxen, Zwart Berg, the oldest of the herd, lay dead on the river's bank, and in part devoured. Berg had strayed the day before, and could not be found to be driven in with the rest, and therefore had fallen a prey to the lions.

I went to Aramap, and asked him if he was inclined for a lion hunt, and he said that he was quite ready if I would furnish the ammunition; accordingly, a strong party was mustered, twenty

muskets were loaded, and those unprovided with fire-arms, were equipped with lances, bows, arrows, and clubs.

We proceeded to the spot, above which crows were wheeling in the air, and indicating the feast they had in contemplation below. Under an aged tree lay the bullock on its side, with marks of teeth on its throat, the stomach was also torn out, and the skin and flesh stripped off the hind quarters. We looked about for spoor, and found that two of the lions had gone south and another east; we followed on the traces of the two, like hounds tracking game by the scent.

The people went over the ground at a rapid pace, talking and making some noise, when, about a mile from the dead bullock, a large male lion started out of a bush, and galloped off before us, among the trees and underwood. A shout was immediately raised, by the whole body of hunters, who with the dogs unhesitatingly gave chase.

We ran down hills, along valleys, and up acclivities, leapt rocks, and brushed by thorn bushes. Sometimes we lost sight of the lion;

but again he appeared galloping and trotting on before us, with the dogs close at his heels. We ran for an hour, and our strength was tried to the uttermost with the broken ground. I was rather inconvenienced by some extra ammunition I carried for the people, and I thought the lion was never to be brought to bay, when he began to slacken his pace. Some of the people of Aramap then ran ahead, cut off an angle, and the lion seeing people before him, "brought up" in a large bush.

The dogs now surrounded the bush, and barked in a tone of mingled fear and anger, but dared not go in, for the monarch of the plains raising himself, and with mouth open, mane erected, and his tail lashing the ground like the flail of a thresher, growled and roared terrifically. I had previously told Aramap that only half the people must fire at once, and the other half reserve their fire; and the line was in the act of being hastily formed for a volley, when the lion again dashed off at right angles to his former course, with all the dogs after him.

The hunters had recovered their breath for

another run, when a noble black dog, foremost in the pursuit, bit the heel of the lion. Before this, the king of beasts, flying before his pursuers, looked like a large yellow mastiff; now he altered in a moment, and with every hair on end, with teeth displayed, and tail in the air, he wheeled round and swelled out apparently to the size of an ox. Despising the dogs, his whole attention was bent on the men—he rushes towards them from a distance of two or three hundred yards—there is a cry of *'gnoo! 'gnoo!* (sit! sit!) for it is of no use standing up against a lion or running away from him—almost all are down in a moment, for a lion is less likely to strike a person standing up than one sitting or lying, and if he does strike, he remains on his victim, so that the rest have then an opportunity of destroying him. We made up our minds to one of the party being sacrificed.

The lion dashes through bushes, nothing stops him or turns him aside, he springs into the air over a rock, and tears off a portion of it with his hind claws—the word is given to fire, and a ball takes effect in his left shoulder—he rolls over

twelve yards off, but immediately recovering himself, he again comes on frantic with rage and pain, another volley is given him, and he falls dead at the distance of four yards only from the muzzles of the guns, with balls through his head and side.

The hunters now breathe more freely, crowd round the lion for a moment, and then, leaving him, they begin to recount their manner of dealing with him, or to laugh at the fears of some of the party. My whole attention was directed to save his skin, and beating off the dogs (who were beginning to pull his mane) with the butt-end of my piece; and, assisted by Robert and Antonio, I soon had his hide off. The Hill Damaras then cut up his carcase, and carried him off joyfully for their evening meal. I tasted him also, and he was rank and unpleasant. Two men carried with difficulty his head and skin on a stick to Niais, eight miles distant. He measured ten feet from his muzzle to the "tossle" of his tail.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Damaras of Niais—Disunion—The Pot Dance—African Travelling—Leave Niais—The fine Valley of the Bath—Good Situation for a Mission Station—A fearful Tragedy—Koodoos—The Copper Mine of Gnutuais—A strange Region—Leave Damara Land—Robert makes a narrow Escape—The Calf River—A Murderer and a Witch in our Company—A Tale of Witchcraft—the Water Bull—Lions—The Gum Pauw—Cameleopards—A Disappointment—Native Manner of hunting the Giraffe—The Lion and the Cameleopard—The Great Fish River—Kuis—A Fishing Party—New Fishes—Notes for Naturalists.

At Niais, the Hill Damaras lived apart from the Namaquas. I visited the former, and found that they had got the charge of cattle and sheep belonging to the latter, but they seemed here as ignorant as I had before found them. I brought their chief to the tent to question him; he seemed to have been chosen for his size and strength only, as to mind he seemed to have none. In talking to him about the generally impressive subject of death, he merely said, "If I live, I live; if I die, I die; but the lambs are in charge of the children, I must go away

and look after them;" and then held out his hand for tobacco.

One afternoon I heard angry words between Old Choubib and Magasee; they had quarrelled about a pipe of tobacco. Choubib, with his usual greediness, not content with his own allowance, wanted Magasee to give him a pipe full of his also. From words they were proceeding to blows, that is, they were stripping to wrestle and to give one another as heavy falls as they could, which might have brought on a general battle between my Cape people and the Namaquas, the consequences of which might have been fatal. Being fortunately near, I prevented the angry wrestling.

The people had been agreeing among themselves pretty well of late, still it was not possible always to make them act up to this maxim, that as our undertaking was one so should our hearts be likewise.

Cor unum, via una.

As our arrival at Niais commenced with a dance, so our sojourn there also ended with one. The pot-dance, which I had not yet seen, was

performed. About thirty Namaqua women seated themselves in a hut, from the arched roof of which hung two chords; these were grasped by a man, who commenced stamping the ground first with one foot, and when that was tired, changing it for the other. He also sung in low chorus, "Uwahu," to the "Ei, oh; ei, oh! ei, oh! ei, oh! ei, oh—oh! oh! oh!" and clapping of the hands of the women. One of these held before her a bambus, in which was a little water, and over the top of it was stretched a piece of sheep-skin. This was occasionally wetted with the water inside, and was beaten with the fore-finger of the right-hand, whilst the pitch was regulated by the fore-finger and thumb of the left.

The dancer tried occasionally to slip off the skin head-coverings of the women, and after he had danced his fill, his place was supplied by another. It was pleasing to see people so happy as these were, and so innocently engaged. There was not the least impropriety observable in this dance; it was merely harmless excitement, and

abandonment to the mirth inspired by the most simple of all music.

The night before we left Niais, a horn was blown to arouse the sleepers, and a rocket was let off "to astonish the natives."

On the 31st May, the cattle and sheep being collected, and the packs in order, we left Niais, my people now joyfully turning their heads to the south. I had set out originally from the Cape with the intention of getting as far to the north and east as I could, without laying down for myself any particular parallel of latitude or meridian of longitude to reach. It is less possible to say, in African travelling, than in that of any other country, that we shall reach such and such a point before we turn. Difficulties and dangers everywhere abound in the interior of Africa, and he is very lucky who can traverse a considerable portion of *unmapped* regions, and return to tell that he has done so. I would have gone to the line if I could, or to the Indian ocean from the Atlantic, but it was impossible for me to do so, as I have already sufficiently

explained. I hope, therefore, I shall not be blamed, if, by not "running my head against a wall," and having my people destroyed beyond the tropic, I am now enabled to tell what I did see, and what I did accomplish. I did my utmost to make an extensive sweep—man could do no more. I have no doubt, that my own seven men would have gone to the north with me, and also Henrick Buys, who said he would follow me to the death anywhere, but none of the Namaquas, or Hill Damaras, who knew the country and the waters, would, as I before said, go a step towards the Kamaka Damaras.

The greater part of the population of Niais turned out to see us depart; and the people shouted to cheer us on our way, whilst a great many of their woolly heads were ornamented with our gaudy cotton handkerchiefs. The excellent Aramap, his fine large wife, and several of his head people accompanied me, to point out a copper mine on our road. We went down the Keikurup river for twelve miles, and then outspanned on its banks at a hamlet.

On the 1st June we had a long march, but it

was through a very beautiful country, abounding in trees and grass. The remarkable Bid Stone and White Mountains, were passed on our right. We descended a ridge, and found ourselves, after twenty-six miles walking and riding, and twenty-four hours without food, in a very fine valley, stretching east and west for several miles, and two or three in breadth. It was enclosed with hills on the north, south, and west; towards the east it was open, and in that direction it afforded a distant prospect of some steep and lofty mountains,* terminating in sharp ridges.

There was quite a forest of thorn trees of several miles in extent in the valley, and in which also the grass stood like corn. Pheasants and Guinea fowl ran about amongst the grass, in large flocks; deer were among the stems of the trees, and tuneful birds were on the branches, so that I could not help repeating—

* One of which I named after Sir George Grey, Bart., Under Secretary of State; and another after Robert W. Hay, Esq., F. R. S., late Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

"'Tis merry, 'tis merry, in good green wood,
When the mavis and merle are singing,
When the deer sweeps by, and the hounds are in cry,
And the hunters horn is ringing."

In the centre of the valley among rocks of granite, rose a warm spring of 126° of Fahrenheit. The water flowed freely from it, and was lost in the plain. Though there were no people in this happy valley, to take advantage of the water, yet Aramap said it was a favourite resort of his, and he shewed me where he had made a dam, and had cultivated some calabashes and tobacco. I gave him some melon and cucumber seeds, to extend his garden. Maize might be raized to a considerable extent here, by leading out the water of the Bath, which, as it had no designation, I named after Lord Glenelg, her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I was so delighted with the valley of the Bath, abounding as it did in water, grass, and trees, and with a striking view toward the east, that I remained a couple of days in it. Two new birds, afterwards described, were here

added to our collection, and a white rhinoceros was shot in the valley; but a party of Hill Damaras, on the look out, carried off almost all the flesh before the pack-oxen could be sent from the Bath to the place where the rhinoceros fell.

As the valley is such as I have described it, capable of supplying abundantly the necessaries of life, being also in the midst of game, and of a numerous population of Namaquas and Hill Damaras, it seemed well adapted for the establishment of a mission station, and accordingly I have indicated its existence and its advantages to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, as, although a distant point, it might yet be connected with their present stations at the Kamiesberg and Nisbett's Bath, or a more direct rout than that which we had lately traversed, might be found from Glenelg's Bath, to a station which may ultimately be formed at Walvisch Bay.

There is one thing which the friends of missions ought to be aware of, Aramap and his people are anxious for missionaries, the women

in particular said, "send us teachers for ourselves and for our children," we ought therefore speedily to respond to their appeal.

We saw indications of the Kamaka Damaras at the New Bath, such as the head of an ox placed on a tree to mark the grave of a warrior below. Here, too, some time ago a fearful tragedy had been enacted. The Namaquas living at the Bath, were aroused one night by the howling, as it seemed, of wolves, when immediately after, there was a fearful rush of negro savages, who destroyed the women and children, whilst the men, less encumbered, escaped to a neighbouring hill. The wife of the head man was secured by the Damaras, and had her hands cut off by the wrists next morning, before her own cattle, previous to her being put to death.

Under the protection of Aramap, a missionary would have little to fear from enemies of any kind.

On the 3d of June we crossed the Tell Tale river, which is lost in the sands to the east, and in passing over some undulating ground several of that most magnificent antelope, the Koodoo, were

observed. A noble male came bounding toward the hunters, who ran toward bushes and lay down to surprise him—he tossed his mighty horns in the air, and wheeled to retreat, as he saw a head rise near him, and heard the cocking of a rifle; but he was too late, a single well-directed ball took him in the shoulder, and he fell heavily to the earth.

The koodoo is a large bodied buck, and the limbs are strong in proportion to its bulk; its height is four feet, its general colour is light brown, with a narrow white band down the back, and about eight white stripes proceeding from that and descending on the sides; the koodoo is provided with a mane, and its tail is of some length; but its glory is in its horns, which are superb. They are commonly four feet long, and spread out from the roots in two or three spiral turns; their colour is brown with white tips. The koodoo is always near cover, and is seldom or never seen in the open plains.

Twelve miles brought us to the Konap or Dry river, and to a place in it called Gnutuais or Black Mud, where we found small pools of

water. A mile above these, on an eminence, Aramap pointed out the copper mine, of which we were in search. There was a long trench in the ground, in which the Damaras had been digging for metal to forge rings between two stones. Sandstone and quartz were about the trench, and every stone was covered with verde-grease.

There is undoubtedly a good store of copper at Gnutuais, near the surface of the ground, and there is also wood for smelting it, and water for the supply of the miners; but its distance from the colony and the sea, may prevent it being made available for some time to come, at least not till the copper near the Orange river has had a fair trial. If the Namaquas had a blast bellows they would soon run copper balls at Gnutuais.

I now parted from Aramap with considerable regret, for he had proved himself to be very intelligent and civil, and was really most hospitable. To himself and his wife I gave, as parting gifts, the best of what I could spare, as saws, axes,

garnet beads, gown pieces, &c., and I hope they both left me contented.

Continuing our journey, we passed through a strange country, full of rocks and trees—the rocks no where rose into hills, but were merely immense boulders lying on the surface, and in some cases were piled on each other. We crossed the Kubieb or Stick-grass river, the Huerap or Crooked river, and offpacked, after four and a half hours, at the Tuap or Clay river, near which two more rhinoceroses were destroyed by a party of hunters travelling the same way as ourselves. Some detached rocks at the Tuap stood like pillars in the wilderness, and the general appearance of the landscape was very pleasing.

On the 5th, the country we traversed was a vast plain, with hardly a rise to be seen in any direction, but everywhere there was most abundant pasture and water in pools. Passing the Nonowus or Hornback hill on our left, and seeing the traces of large game, we offpacked at the Ku Kama or Brown river. Here on many trees

swung the nests of ingenious weaver birds, safe from baboons and snakes, at the extremities of the branches.

We now left the Hill Damaras all behind us, though they extend farther to the south, more to the westward.

We again entered *veritable* Namaqua land, with patches of sand, quartz, dry white grass, and bushes. Robert now made a narrow escape. Being among the last of the party, and seeing a rhinoceros on the plain below him, he called out to some of the Namaquas near him to follow and help him to kill the animal. But they, seeing that there was not sufficient cover for them to "be-creep" the rhinoceros with safety, allowed Robert to go on alone. He did so on foot; and as the rhinoceros was on the move, he followed it for some time till it went amongst some thorn bushes. Robert approached them, when the rhinoceros, again appearing, saw Robert for the first time, and immediately gave chase. Robert ran off as fast as he could; the rhinoceros followed, snorting and tearing up the ground with its horn. Robert threw off his hat to try and

stop the brute; but it disregarded it, and after a run of a couple of hundred yards, a bush luckily came in the way, into which Robert threw himself and lay flat. The rhinoceros passed close to him, and missing him, stopped to look round. There was no time to be lost; Robert fired and struck the rhinoceros in the neck; it fell, and struggled to get up. Robert took to his heels again, picked up his hat, and joined me in advance quite out of breath. If he had allowed the rhinoceros to recover from the stunning effects of the ball, he must have been destroyed.

A troop of koodoos again bounded across the slope before us; a male with six or seven hornless females were seen. The leader was selected by the hunters, a brace of balls crushed through his side, which, with a charge of buck shot in his muscular neck, caused him to spring into the air, and to fall panting and sighing on the ground. Though we had now sufficient sheep for our support, it would have been overstrained humanity not to have "shot down" a fat buck when it came in one's way, to vary our diet, and to keep the people exhilarated with "sport."

After thirty miles we packed off at the Choump, or calf river.

We had now in our company an ugly little old Boschman—wirey and wizened, with the broadest nose, the widest mouth, and the deepest wrinkles about the eyes, I ever saw. Henrick Buys called him "Hornkop," or horn head, from a strange bump or excrescence on one side of his head. His wife and child were also with us, and were as little attractive as himself. This amiable family had asked leave to travel with us towards the Fish River, whither they were bound.

Hornkop lay all night near the dead koodoo, and a lion came and ate off its backbone, and when the Boschman appeared alive in the morning, the Namaquas said he was too great a rascal for the lion to touch him—it disdained to dirty its mouth with him.

I asked how he got the bump on his head.

"He is a murderer," said Henrick, "and he got the mark of a beast in this way. He had a quarrel with a nephew of his, and he continued his spite against him for a long time, till an opportunity offered for him to be revenged.

At last, the two were on a honey hunt together, and the nephew went into a hole after the bees, leaving his bow and arrows outside. Hornkop immediately fixed a barb, and shot his nephew as he came out, and killed him; then bruising his own head with a stone, he went and told his people that his nephew had done it, and that he had been obliged to kill him in self defence."

"His wife, too, looks like a devil," I said.

"Yes," said Henrick, "She is a witch, and can turn herself into a wolf if she likes."

"Do you believe that?"

"It is believed in the land that some of the Bosch-people can change themselves into wolves or lions when they like. They say of Hornkop's wife, that she was jealous of another old woman some time ago, and one evening, when the old woman went for water after dark, she never came back again to her hut. In the morning the people went out to look for her, and they found her bones beside a bush, and the footmarks of a wolf all about, whilst her skin clothes had been rolled up and placed at one side, not in the way that a common wolf

would do, but in a way that Hornkop's wife must have done."

Here is another story of witchcraft:

Once on a time a certain Namaqua was travelling in company with a Boschwoman carrying a child on her back. They had proceeded some distance on their journey, when a troop of wild horses appeared, and the man said to the woman, "I am hungry; and as I know you can turn yourself into a lion, do so now, and catch us a wild horse, that we may eat."

The woman answered, "You'll be afraid."

"No, no," said the man; "I am afraid of dying of hunger, but not of you."

Whilst he was yet speaking, hair began to appear at the back of the woman's neck, her nails began to assume the appearance of claws, and her features altered. She set down the child.

The man alarmed at the change, climbed a tree close by, the woman glared at him fearfully, and going to one side she threw off her skin petticoat, when a perfect lion rushed out into the plain; it bounded and crept among the

bushes towards the wild horses, and springing on one of them, it fell, and the lion lapped its blood. The lion then came back to where the child was crying, and the man called from the tree, "enough! enough!—don't hurt me. Put off your lion's shape, I'll never ask to see this again."

The lion looked at him and growled. "I'll remain here till I die," said the man, "if you don't become a woman again." The mane and tail then began to disappear, the lion went towards the bush where the skin petticoat lay; it was slipped on, and the woman in her proper shape took up the child. The man descended, partook of the horse's flesh, but never again asked the woman to catch game for him.

The Namaquas believe that in certain deep fountains there lives a water bull, which is black and has large horns; at night it comes out to eat grass, and dives under the water before day. There is a similar superstition in Scotland.

We found the Calf river a disagreeable place, but we were forced to halt here for two nights to rest the cattle. A black hawk was shot here

by Elliot, the only one we had seen on the journey. After dark, on the second night, two lions growled round the trees where we lay. The sheep were restless, and on rising to turn them in near a fire, old Aaron, the *soi disant* guide, with the invincible appetite, was discovered devouring the flesh of a jackal, which had been shot during the day, and with jaws chattering from fear of the lions, he said he did not see why good flesh should be wasted, and that he should sit up and do nothing.

On the 8th, our course was S.S.E. along the Chounp, we crossed it, and off-packed at a pool called Hoakɔsams, or scratch-breast place, twenty miles. Here a gum pauw, or bustard, which subsists partly on gum, was shot, which measured eight feet and a half between the extremities of the wings, and was four feet seven inches from the point of the beak to the end of the tail. With its long legs it must have stood upwards of four feet high. Its back was of a brownish colour, its crest black, its neck speckled with grey and black, its breast and belly were while, and the shoulders of its wings were beau-

tifully marked with black and white feathers. This bustard was the largest bird we had seen since we left the Cape, and as everything "was fish which came to our net," we ate it, and found it very good.

We had not been long halted, when the word was passed that two cameleopards were in sight, and on looking towards the top of a ridge about a mile from us, two of these most graceful and long necked animals, were seen gazing towards us, and "craning" over the tops of the bushes.

The flesh of the giraffe is very excellent eating, accordingly we quickly seized our arms, and ran towards the ridge, concealing ourselves as much as we could. The main body of the hunters, doffing their clothes and shoes, stole along the bottom of a ravine.

We got near the cameleopards before they disappeared, and on attaining the summit of the ridge, I saw the two videttes who had been out reconnoitering, galloping back to join the main body.

It was one of the finest sights which I had ever beheld, to observe twelve of these most

remarkable animals, small and great, on an open part of the bushy plain below me; there they stood in various attitudes, as if consulting how they could best escape their enemies whose vicinity they had just become aware of. They seemed to hesitate, and one or two lowered their heads to snatch a mouthful of grass; the hearts of the hunters beat high with anxiety, and they had got almost within range, when Elliot, who had never seen cameleopards before, and thinking he could run up to them, in his eagerness to get a shot, dashed across an open space, when instantly the troop came together at a walk in their strange manner, by moving two legs on the same side at once (different from other quadrupeds, which move opposite legs simultaneously in walking) they then broke into a gallop, and went off sawing the air with their long necks, and carried their brown spotted bodies far beyond our reach.

The Namaquas were much annoyed at losing a giraffe feast which they made sure of, and of getting some capital sole leather; but we afterwards ate cameleopard flesh, which we found

more juicy and palatable than any of the deer tribe we had partaken of in South Africa.

The most approved manner in the present day of hunting the giraffe in Namaqua land, is on horseback. The natives watch the giraffes when they are reposing, and get as near to them as they can before they dash forward; the gigantic beasts get up in their scrambling manner, and move off as fast as they can; the horsemen pursue them, and if their horses are good, they are not very long in coming up with them, and they fire when the muzzle almost touches the shoulder of the giraffe. When the cameleopard is mortally wounded, the long neck begins gradually to droop, and then the inoffensive animal falls on the ground. Sometimes, however, an old giraffe will stop short in his flight, allow the horseman to pass close to him, and rearing up, will overwhelm both horse and rider, and then make off.

The death of the cameleopard by a lion must be a remarkable sight. The lion is said to lie in wait for his giant prey among the reeds at a fountain, and when the giraffe stoops to drink, his enemy springs on him, when the affrighted

animal carries off his terrible burden over the plain, the lion biting him all the while till he sinks and dies—

> " Plunging oft with frantic bound,
> To shake the tyrant to the ground,
> He shrieks—he rushes through the waste
> With glaring eye, and headlong haste—
> In vain! The spoiler on his prize
> Rides proudly—tearing as he flies."

In the evening, before going to sleep, we had set fire to an old tree near our lair, to keep off the lions; it fell in the middle of the night with a terrible crash, and the frightened bullocks ran over us. Some of the party were for firing, thinking we were attacked by a troop of lions, and it was fortunate that no one was hurt, either by the fall of the tree, the feet of the bullocks, or by an indiscriminate discharge of fire-arms.

Next day, after nineteen miles journey, we got once more to the 'Oup, or Fish river, and to a place called Hatep, or Reed Water, where we packed off under some remarkably bent trees. I went with Robert in the evening to fish and shoot at a large pool lower down the river, and at sun down we had a sharp walk home, expect-

ing to meet a lion in the path; but we met nothing but guinea fowl going to roost.

Eight miles E. S. E. along the Fish river, brought us to Kuis, or Scent, the place of a Bastaard of the name of Kraai. We found about a dozen huts at Kuis, and the chief was a respectable looking man, with a large family by one wife. I found the young men here particularly curious and forward, and I only kept my temper and got rid of their annoyance, by making a party to fish in some large pools half way to our last halting place.

We stripped, waded, swam, and hauled the sein, and got plenty of fish.

Among other fish caught here were two which seemed to be novel: one, eighteen inches long, was brown on the back, with red blotches on the sides, and yellowish white belly; it had a purse or bag-like mouth, and eleven rays to the dorsal fin, was evidently a barbel (barbus), but peculiar from having its nose produced and rounded, like the Cyprinus Narus, and from the front of the back being elevated and rounded.

The other was a foot long; its back was bluish,

yellowish on the sides: it was probably a Leuciseus, for there were no indications of beards. Mr. J. E. Gray, of the British Museum, to whom my sketches were shown, proposed to call the first of these two varieties of fish, *Barbus Namaquaensis*, and of the second, he said that he was not aware that any species of the genus, to which it appeared to belong, had before been recorded as a native of the southern part of Africa.

At Kuis we were fortunate in adding to our collection of birds many fine varieties. Among others were a very fine eagle, with a red breast and white tail, pheasants, black and white spur-wings, brown and black hoopoes, woodpeckers, kingfishers, white egrettes, large brown geese, water hens, &c. A collector would be well rewarded, if, associating himself with the Buys, with Aramap, or with any of the other good people of the land, he proceeded up the Fish river from its mouth to its source, then turned to the right to look at the Nosop, and to the left to obtain some large skins at the Bull's Mouth Pass.

New birds from all parts of the world are con-

tinually being described, but preserved objects of natural history are little thought of in these times compared with living specimens, there is such a mania for them at present, and for the formation of zoological gardens. I was unfortunate with my young gemsbok, as well as with the springbok, ostriches, &c. Henrick the driver carried the gemsbok for a month before him on an ox, at last it died from struggling to free its legs; it seemed always stupid and untameable, and was totally different from the pet-springbok in disposition.

Though there is no gemsbok now in England that I am aware of, not a living specimen of this antelope, which can contend successfully with the king of beasts, yet I was not sorry when my gemsbok died, for the valuable servant who carried it was then saved a great deal of annoyance.

CHAPTER IX.

Despatch a Messenger to the Chief Amral to prevent War in the land—The Tribes jealous of each other—Lions prefer human flesh—The Misfortunes which befel a party of Hunters under Amral—Leave Kuis—Travel along the Kaikum River—Boschman-fishing—Dreary Plains—The Hartebeest—The Chup River—Departure of the Escort—The Kubap River—Visit of Bechuanas to the Fish River—Discovery of a City in the wilderness—The Hun-top—Dreams—The Poisoned Pool—Intense cold—Travel along the Summits of the Bulb Mountains—"Flesh is weak"—Distress of the Oxen—The Water-place of Kuma Kams—The Fountain of Blood—Descend the 'Un'uma Range—Khumees—A Hairy Shepherd—Halt to repair Damages.

ARAMAP, and his dependant, Kraai, had both mentioned to me that they expected soon to be engaged in fighting with the people of Amral, the chief of the Keikouas * Namaquas, who was not many days to the south-east of Kuis, (and who had just been bitten by a lion,) and they requested that I would interfere to prevent war in the land. I said I should do my utmost to effect this; and, accordingly, I now despatched a mes-

* Great mens' partners.

senger to Amral with a government medal and a letter, which the messenger got by heart to communicate its contents to the chief.

The sight of a written paper has a great effect in Namaqua land.

I explained to Amral why I had come into the land—to see it, and to ascertain if a trade could be opened with the natives. I regretted that our route had not conducted us by his kraals, and that he had met with an accident from a lion, which I trusted he would soon get the better of. I assured him that no boors would be allowed to come into Great Namaqua land to settle in it, but that some traders would probably come to supply the Namaquas with what goods they wanted, and that then one or two missionaries would follow to teach the people, but for these great advantages it was necessary that *peace* should be preserved in the land.

I stated that I had heard of some differences and disputes between his young men and those of Aramap and Kraai, but I hoped that he (Amral), as a good and true man and a great chief, would use his influence to make his people

live in good fellowship with the others—that I was on my way to the Cape by Komakas (Mr. Schmelen's) place, and that I now sent a token of the king my master, which was given to great captains in proof of friendship.

This message had, I believe, the effect which it was intended to produce. Amral himself was peaceably inclined, but his young people were restless, and anxious to try their strength with those of Aramap and Kraai, their neighbours. Perhaps, they were also jealous of Aramap's success, and envied the fine country he had acquired, though the Keikuas had also plenty of game in their country, and had range enough.

During our journey from Niais to Kuis, I asked why we saw so few people on our route? and the answer was, "There are plenty of Damaras on the hills, but there are no people on these plains at present, the last who were here were eaten up by the lions."

"Surely, not all of them?"

"No, not all, but a great many were eaten, and the rest ran away; for the lions, when they once taste human flesh, will leave all other

game to hunt men, and will leap over a fire to get at them."

What had just befallen Amral and some of his people confirms this. The chief, and 200 of his men, had left Koonhop, his usual lay-place, which is two days west of the Nosop River, and were proceeding up the Nosop, hunting with guns and bows, and were also, perhaps, intending not to come home before securing some Damara cattle, when the following accidents happened:—

The first day, some of the hunters were pursuing an elephant in the river, when they came across lions, which pursued them, and they only saved themselves by abandoning a horse, which the lions devoured. Three of the party then made a scherm or screen of bushes opposite a pool, where they expected elephants or rhinoceroses to come and drink, and inside the scherm they dug a hole, the better to conceal themselves. Rhinoceroses came, two of the men fired and missed them, and the third was about to fire, when a lion, now first observed, sprung in upon him, and carried him off, without his com-

panions being able to help him, and all that they afterwards saw of him was one leg.

Next day one of the Keikouas wounded a rhinoceros, which turned and charged him, came on with its horrid blast and scream, tossed him in the air, cutting his leg severely; his gun fell one way, and he another. He was picked up very lame, and sent back to Koonhop on horseback.

Immediately after this, two Namaquas and a Boschman of Amral's party, were sitting by a fire at night behind a scherm, when a lion came, seized one of them, dragged him through the fire, and bit off his back; one of the men fired, but missed, on which the lion dropped its dying victim, and growled across the fire at the two men, they durst not repeat the shot; the lion then took up its prey in its mouth, and went off with it.

Alarmed at these disasters, the Namaquas now assembled in one large scherm, and sent a Damara slave out at night for water. He had no sooner reached the pool than he was seized by a lion, he called in vain for help, and was slipped off among the reeds, and next day his

skull only was found, clean licked by the rough file of the lion's tongue.

Amral and his men now turned out to hunt lions only, and in proceeding on some spoor up a hill, they soon saw two lions making off among the long grass and bushes; those of the party who had horses mounted them, and were soon able to shoot one of the lions in a bush; they then sat down, ate and refreshed themselves; and in the afternoon went after the largest and most savage of the two lions, he who had probably done all the mischief previously by devouring three men.

The lion had ensconced himself in a patch of reeds, which were set fire to on the windward side, and as he came out before the flames, one man fired at him and missed him, and he was going off in the most deliberate manner, when two better marksmen struck him in the loins and fore arm, which seemed to shake him, another man's ball then struck short, entering the ground before the lion, when he immediately turned and charged, with a loud roar, in the smoke.

"Death poured from his eyes along the quailing bands. His joy was in the fall of men. Blood to him was a summer stream, that brings joy to the withered vales from its own mossy rock."

The hunters sat down in a moment, and two of them fired but missed, when the monster dashed in amongst them, and seizing Amral's brother by the back, he tore out his ribs and exposed his lungs. Amral rushed to the assistance of his unfortunate brother—his gun burnt priming, and throwing it down, he seized, in his desperation, the lion by the tail to make him let go his expiring victim; the lion did so, and turning on Amral, with a stroke of his paw he grazes his forehead, tears a large piece of flesh off his left arm, and wounds his left hand, Amral springs back, when the lion strikes him again on the side and throws him down, Amral quickly rises, when the lion, intent on his revenge, and smarting under his own wounds, fixes his claws in the sash of Amral, and gets one of his knees in his mouth, Amral falls, the lion then sits over him, mumbling his left arm; Amral, torn and

bloody, calls in a feeble voice to his people, who were round him, but at a little distance, to shoot the lion from behind, and one of them destroyed him with a ball through the brain. The dead body of Amral's brother was then taken up and buried, and the hunters, after thus losing four of their number at the commencement of their expedition, thought it was as well to give it up, and they returned home, bearing their wounded chief.

This is a specimen of what may be met with in the region of lions; there, are danger and excitement enough for the keenest Nimrod, and plenty of what the Americans would call "rough and tumble."

Time pressed, and as I could not go out of my way to visit Amral, on the 13th of June I left Kuis, and on doing so we immediately exchanged the good country to the east of the 'Oup river for a barren waste, to the west of it. We halted at Kaikum or Pack river, twelve miles, and our course was now S.S.W.

Next day we packed off after eleven miles, along the same river, at two or three shallow

pools, where we saw two Boschmans catching small fry, in this simple fashion:—they collected a quantity of grass, and laid it across the water at one end of the pool, then wading in, they pushed the grass before them to the other end, when the little fish leapt out in great quantities on the wet sand.

Our march on the 24th was over plains of vast extent, desolate and silent as the grave, covered with stones and scattered bushes—the sight of these solitudes was enough to damp the ardour of the most determined voyageur, and to sink the spirits, as the eye wandered over the waste in search of some hill, or some other object on which to rest; the next feeling was to hurry across them as rapidly as I had formerly done on a low troitski, with three long-tailed galloways, over the Russian Steppes, and to try to get over their weary extent and to their termination; but speed was impossible—"stick to the trek (or line of pack oxen) and the trek will stick to you"—so it was necessary to move slowly, to bring on all our cattle and stores.

After twenty-one miles we packed off at

Nubapis or Rhinoceros water, also on the Kaikum river.

That fine animal, the Hartebeest, which I had not seen since I had been on the banks of the Keiskama, in Cafferland, now appeared, to enliven us. It is one of the best known of the antelopes of South Africa, and the flavour of its venison is much esteemed. In size the hartebeest is equal to the largest of the deer tribe, its horns are thick and annulated, rise nearly straight from the forehead, and then bend suddenly backward. When brought to bay it is said to drop on its knees and then rush forward on its enemies.

On the 20th travelling due south, we passed the Atkuma river, whose course was easterly, towards the Great Fish river, and still traversing the same cheerless solitudes, where, if a person had strayed, there was no visible means of sustenance for him. We packed off at the Chup or do nothing river.

Choubib, from some news he had heard at Kraai's place, now became anxious to return home, and Kuisip, who was always led by

Choubib, also asked if I could now spare him, for a direct road led from the Chup to the Kamop river, where their people were, and the road to Komakas, which I intended to follow, was out of the way for them. As I had Henrick Buys and three or four of his men who knew the country, to guide me, and assist in driving the cattle, and as we hoped to be able to defend ourselves against Boschmans and lions, I had no occasion for the further services of the Koutoukooas, or "short backs" of Kuisip. From the chief Kuisip, I was sorry to part, for he was a good man, and was always anxious to assist me with his people; but old Choubib had long disgusted the whole party with his bad temper and covetousness; whenever a case was opened he used to come prying into it to see what he could ask for out of it; my men were all delighted to part with him, but it was done in good humour.

I gave to the chief and to Choubib, according to agreement, a new musket each, the value of of which was eight oxen, I also gave them fourteen pounds of lead, and seven pounds of powder each, shawls, handkerchiefs, tinder boxes, &c.

also to each of their men a small present, and they went on their way contented, with some sheep from my flock for their support on the road.

No sooner were they gone than a fine Damara slave boy of Choubib's, Apollos by name, appeared among my people, he had run away from his master, and wished to go with us; Choubib sent two men after him, who carried him off by force, and before we could interfere, they flogged the poor fellow most unmercifully with thorn bushes. Apollos was the son of a chief, and his bearing was always very independent. I asked Saul if he would like to go back to Choubib's people, and he began to cry, fearing that I would send him again to climb gum trees.

We continued our journey crossing the Kurie Ku, or Strong Running river, and packed off at the Kuhap or Knot river, (twelve miles,) with a lighter and more manageable party. We had thunder and rain at the Kuhap.

I said before that the chief Aramap had told me that it was impossible to get to Latakoo from the Fish river, without going nearly along

the course of the Orange, and that none of the Namaquas knew a shorter route across to the Bechuana country, but it appears that in former times the Bechuanas knew and used a short route to the Fish river, for Henrick Buys remembered when he was a youth of about fifteen (thirty years ago,) to have seen on the Fish river, and east of where we now were, a party of Bechuanas (wearing handsome karosses, or mantles of blue cat, jackal, and other skins, and a cloth (?) round their waist, the ends of which were brought up between their legs) who came to exchange their small axes with the Namaquas for cattle, and these people had come directly across from their own country without going near the Orange river. But this was not the last time, he was aware that some of the eastern tribes had visited the borders of Namaqua land. For a few years ago he had gone with a party, due east from Bethany, across the Fish and Nosop Rivers, and had got to a branch of the latter, where they expected to find plenty of elephants, when they descried on the plain before them, to their surprise and fear, a town

of mud huts. They concealed themselves for a time to observe what passed in the town, but seeing no people in or about it, they took courage and entered it.

The huts were small, capable of containing only two or three people each, and were constructed of wattled stakes and clay. They were arranged close together in a large circle, outside of which was a fence of bushes, and inside were numerous cattle kraals also of bushes, disposed like figures of 8 connected longitudinally. Pieces of pottery and cloth were lying about, and it was evident that this "city in the wilderness" had been inhabited by a great multitude of people, who had not long abandoned it.

A Boschman, with whom Henrick's party fell in, said, that the town which they now saw had been raised by a large tribe, who had come from the eastward not long before, and who were called *Manchatees*—that some time after they had settled themselves in their town, the Kamaka Damaras come down on them from the north, and that a great battle had taken place, in which the Damaras were defeated, and then,

after a short residence at their town, the Manchatees had gone away towards the N.E., and the Boschman saw them no more.

In Thompson's excellent work on South Africa, he describes the invasion of the Bechuana country, in 1823, by an immense horde which came from the eastward, driven from their own country by the warlike Zoolas, and called *Mantatees*. After being defeated by the Griquas, who, mounted on horseback, attacked them successfully with their guns, near Latakoo, the horde was scattered, and doubtless it was a division of it which had wandered as far as the tributaries of the Nosop River, and which had constructed the town which Henrick Buys had seen.

On the 18th we continued our journey, two zebras were shot, and after a march over a level country of sixteen miles, we were refreshed with the sight of the constant waters and green trees of the Huntop, or Off-running river, under a deep bank below us. We zig-zagged down the steep, and gladly packed off, on the anniversary of glorious Waterloo.

We halted a day here, to fish in the deep pools, and we caught barbel of a similar description to those noticed at Kuis. A dish of fish was a great treat to us, tired as we were of daily flesh, without bread, vegetables, or salt. I was still quite well myself, but two of my white men were much disordered from indulging in the yellow fat of the zebra; however, two or three strong doses of medicine brought them round again.

I felt now a constant longing for bread, which it was difficult to get the better of, and I dreamt at night of rioting in the midst of goodly loaves in bakers' shops, but, alas! in the morning we had nothing for it but *revenir à notre mouton.*

We made a short march down the Huntop of seven miles, and then leaving its pleasant banks, we travelled for seventeen miles over a dreary country, and with the prospect before us of a poisoned pool. We halted at a place called Khoons, or ground, on the Keisu, or black pot river, and I ran down to the river's bed to see if all the water was poisoned in the pools, at which I had heard that Aramap had just lost some horses. But

before I could stop them, half of the bullocks ran past me and plunged into the water, and drank. I thought they must surely die, when I discovered that there had been two pools, an upper and a lower, and that the lower pool, at which the cattle were drinking, had been fenced round with thorns by the Boschmans, and that in the dried-up bed of the upper pool, which had been left unenclosed, there lay several stems of the *euphorbia candelabra*, kept down by stones, the poisonous juice exuding from which, had rested like a scum on the surface of the water to poison zebras. Most unfortunately twenty horses, which Aramap had procured from the south, had on their journey to Niais, drank of the poisoned water, and had all died; their remains lay not far from the poisoned pool.

It is not particularly agreeable after a long day's march to come to a pool, about the wholesomeness of whose water one is quite uncertain, and where, if the water (as it usually happens to be) is thick, it is impossible to see whether it had been drugged or not. The only remedy in

a case of this sort is to feel about in the bottom of the pool with sticks, and with one's naked feet, for the prickly stems of the euphorbia, or to skim the water carefully, and to use as little of it as possible, when there is any doubt about it.

We now travelled west for twenty-one miles, saw numerous traces of the hartebeest, and on our right were some of the off-sets of the 'Un'uma or Bulb mountains; we began to ascend, and off-packed at a dry place, where we could not sleep all night for the cold, and where (it being now the middle of the South African winter, and our elevation very considerable) our kårosses were stiff with hoar frost.

The bullocks were packed with difficulty, with benumbed fingers, and shivering in our skin clothes, we ascended on the morning of the 23d, by a precipitous road to the table land, on the tops of the 'Un'uma mountains; here we saw a troop of half-a-dozen cameleopards, and, after thirty miles of a cold walk, we off-packed at Kurumie, or blow mouth water-place, on the Kutip, or Hammer river.

Here we dug a hole ten feet deep—but we

could not keep it free from sand, to allow the cattle to drink, and Henrick the driver, was nearly smothered by the sand falling in upon him—neither could we get fire-wood to cook our victuals or keep ourselves warm. We were also beginning to leave behind us some bullocks overcome with fatigue, and had not a promising prospect before us in any way, till we should reach the Koanquip.

We had been highly favoured hitherto in having lost so few cattle, considering the great extent of country we had traversed; and it was incumbent on us to be very thankful for the manner in which we had been dealt with; still "flesh is weak," and it was impossible to keep one's spirits up at all times, particularly when we were again in great distress for water.—"This time next year," we said, "we may be in a better position."

On the 24th, a march of eleven miles brought us to the Ku''ums, or knot mouth river; here there was no water for the cattle, and only a dirty puddle under some stones for the men—strange to say, it was now the fourth day since

the wretched oxen had tasted water, as the Poisoned Pool was the last place where they had drank. I expected to see the whole herd lie down and perish before my eyes every instant, no European cattle could have held out in the inconceivable way these hardy Africans had done.

I heard that there was a water place some distance from the Ku''ums, and to prevent any carelessness about the cattle and sheep, I set off with them on foot over the heights to the S.W., but it was not till after a rough march of ten miles that we came to a very remarkable pool, below what was occasionally a cataract; high cliffs shut in the pool, which was deep and black, but the water was of excellent quality. Some armed Boschmans ascended the rocks as we drew near, and the impatient cattle were driven to the water in squads, to enable them to drink with the least inconvenience after their dry journey from the Keisu of seventy-two miles.

This water place was called Kuma Kams, or the water of the beast tribe, and near it was a heap of stones, eight yards long by one and

a half high, in a cleft between two eminences, which the Namaquas said was a heap over their deity, Heije Eibib.

I got back to the Ku''ums late at night, my people thought I was lost, and had made great fires, to direct me to the bivouack. After a day's halt to refresh the cattle, we continued our journey along the cold and flat summits of the Bulb Mountains, and turned aside to get water at the fountain 'Ahuas, or blood. In this was said to dwell a snake which guarded it, but strange to say, when the fountain was reached, it was found to be dried up, and a water snake, about six feet long, brown above and yellow below, lay dead beside it. The Namaquas immediately cried out, "Some one has killed the snake of the Fountain, and it is therefore dried up."

Not far from the Fountain of Blood, a young Boschman and his wife were met, and the woman accused her husband of having committed a great crime; she said, that the day before, they had drank at 'Ahuas, and the Boschman seeing the snake there had killed it. He excused himself

by saying that he was a stranger in that part of the country, and did not know that the snake he had killed at the edge of the water, was the snake of the Fountain.

'Ahuas was not the only fountain in Namaqua land which was superstitiously believed to be preserved by a snake; but it was the only one which had come in our way. It was singular enough that it should have dried up immediately after the death of the snake; perhaps a hole which the snake made in the soft mud might have kept the fountain open.

We descended by a very rugged path, and in three quarters of an hour, from the summit of the 'Un'uma range to the plain below, and then reached the junction of the Great and Little Koanquip rivers, twenty-seven miles, where we lay among some bushes during a very cold night.

Passing along the Great Koanquip, some remarkable summits of the 'Un'uma arrested our attention; they stood boldly out from the range, and rose like pyramids or truncated cones into the sky. The first of these mountains I named

after my brother; another, opposite the Khumees or Lion water place, where we halted, after W. D. Cooley, Esq. F.R.G.S., who proposed the Delagoa expedition; and a third, after a valued friend in the East, the Honourable Colonel Morison, C.B., Member of the Supreme Council of India.

Khumees, as its name implies, is a favourite haunt for lions. We saw none there; but a new pheasant was noticed among the bushes, with a white ring round its neck, a brown back, and a long tail; also plenty of baboons were seen on the rocks above the water.

The Namaquas said, that, not long ago, a man had brought up a young baboon, and had made it his shepherd. It remained by the flock all day in the field, and at night drove it home to the kraal, riding on the back of one of the goats, which brought up the rear. The baboon had the milk of one goat allowed to it, and it sucked that one only, and guarded the milk of the others from the children. It also got a little meat from its master. It held the office of shepherd for

twelve moons, and then was unfortunately killed in a tree by a leopard.

I cannot vouch for the truth of this story, but we have instances at home of what ourang-outangs can be made to do, and possibly the tale of the hairy shepherd may be quite true.

We were visited by Christian Buys, who lived not far off; he was a quiet respectable-looking man, and was dressed for the occasion in a soldier's red jacket, which he had given sundry oxen for at the sea. Two more marches brought us to Henrick Buy's people, who were tarrying on the banks of the Koanquip. Here we halted to make and mend clothes, and were glad to get again under cover, for a time, for the thermometer, for several mornings, was at 32°, with plenty of hoar frost.

> "Dissolve frigus, ligna super foco
> Largé reponens, permitte divis cœtera."

CHAPTER X.

Jan Buys' Journey from the Kuisip to the Koanquip—Tailoring—An ugly Thief—The Boy and the Baboons—Difficulties and Dangers—Hemp Smokers—The Field of Lions—Ostrich Omelettes—Cunning of an Ostrich—The African Spring—Reptiles and Leopards—The Ford of the Ebony Black Sheep, Orange River—Floods in the Koanquip and Gariep—Ford of the Shining Eye—Specimens of Namaqua Nights' Entertainments—The Jackal and the Wolf—The Jackal, the Tiger, and the Ram—The Jackal and the Fat—The Cave of Heije Eibib—The Miscreant Martinus—Worn-out Cattle—Arrive at Komakas—A cebaceous Curiosity—Journey to Cape Town—Results of the Expedition—Arrival in England.

We had not been long among Henrick Buy's people, before his elder brother, "oud Jan," rejoined us: he had got safe to the banks of the Koanquip with the waggon, which I now recovered.

After Jan left us on the Kuisip, he got to Ababies, where he saw no Boschmans. It was at Ababies, if any where, I thought he would have found the water poisoned (in revenge for the theft of the Boschmans' skins), but it was not so. He then got the waggon through the pass

of the Bull's Mouth with less difficulty than before, as the rhinoceros hide was the only thing of any weight in it. He halted at the place where the first rhinoceros was killed, and the oxen rushed into a deep water hole, out of which they were hauled by dint of great exertion with stout thongs, with the exception of one of my best, which was drowned. At the entrance of the pass, the oxen betrayed alarm on approaching our old scherms there, when Jan going forward to see what was the matter, observed a large lion gnawing a bone in one of our lay places. The lion slowly retreated up the hill, and lay down to watch the party, Jan, knowing the danger he would incur if he stopped as he had intended, at the entrance of the pass for the night, merely gave the oxen water, and hurried on to a safe distance, and without further adventure he crossed the Great Flat, and reached the Koanquip.

I was very glad to see Jan again, and was much obliged to him for the trouble he had taken on my account, and he and Henrick now said, that they would assist me with oxen as far

as Komakas, or even to Cape Town, if I liked, and I gladly availed myself of their offer, for many of my cattle were very thin, and much distressed.

The waggon, shaken by very rough travelling, was repaired, and the wheels were laid in wet sand, to tighten them, and where the wood would not meet the iron, wedges were introduced. The women were busily employed in making and repairing our skin clothes, we now got rid of all our rags, and the party turned out in very decent order, with leather hunting frocks, good trousers, and untanned shoes.

But all this took up a fortnight, during which I took my exercise under a remarkable cliff of the 'Un'uma, like a baronial castle on a hill.

We were not much annoyed with wild beasts at the Koanquip, only one night a hyena came to where we lay, and took up an iron kettle, in which there had been milk, and carried it off. In the morning it was nowhere to be found, till on our observing the foot-prints of a hyena at our fire, they were followed, and the kettle, the lid of which was fast, was found under a bush,

half-a-mile down the river. A greasy iron pot-lid afterwards disappeared, but that was never recovered; it was probably buried.

The baboons sometimes annoy the Namaquas by stealing their children;—thus a fire-side story narrated, that the children belonging to a heis were playing at some little distance from the huts with bows and arrows; in the evening they all returned home, save one, a boy of five or six years old, who lingered behind, and was soon surrounded by a troop of baboons, which carried him up a mountain.

The people turned out to recover the boy, and for days they hunted after him in vain; he was nowhere to be seen; the baboons also had decamped from the neighbourhood.

A year after this occurred, a mounted hunter came to the heis from a distance, and told the people that he had crossed at such a place the spoor of baboons, along with the foot-marks of a child. The people went to the place which the hunter had indicated, and they soon saw what they were in search of, viz. the boy, sitting on a pinnacle of rock, in company with a large baboon.

The moment the people approached, the baboon took up the boy, and scampered off with him; but, after a close pursuit, the boy was recovered. He seemed quite wild, and tried to run away to the baboons again; however, he was brought back to the heis, and when he recovered his speech, he said, that the baboons had been very kind to him; that they ate scorpions and spiders themselves, but brought him roots, gum, and wild raisins, seeing that he did not touch the two first delicacies, and that they always allowed him to drink first at the waters; thus, apparently, acknowledging his superiority to themselves.

This, as the Americans would remark, is interesting, if true.

Our preparations being completed, and the waggon again loaded, Henrick the driver gladly cracked his whip, and we set out in good spirits for the south. There were, however, three impediments which it was likely we should meet with on the journey—Henrick the robber, and his myrmidons, the "leather shoe wearers," in revenge for having been obliged to surrender Choubib's cattle and sheep, and to get some of

our powder, hearing of our return, might waylay and attack us—we were about to pass through the most dangerous field for lions in Namaqua land—and, lastly, the Orange river might be in flood. However, we had some good men with us, and we were resolved, at all events, "to die hard."

We reached Bethany on the 13th of July, fifteen miles. Here all the oxen ran away, and we were delayed for forty-eight hours, till they were brought back from the Koanquip. In the garden at Bethany the "Dakka rookers," or smokers of the intoxicating and deleterious leaves of hemp, had an opportunity of filling their pouches with what they preferred far above tobacco even, from the pleasant visions which dakka (like opium) inspires. Yet dakka, like the extract from the poppy, makes those addicted to it habitually stupid, and soon wears them out.

On the 15th and 16th, after crossing the Koanquip, we were at Piet Buys heis, consisting of five or six huts, on the Quahanap or javelin river, and then crossing the Koanquip again, we outspanned under a group of nameless

hills, which I called after my respected friend, George Banks, Esq., formerly mayor of Leeds. Two lions followed us to Hudap, or Ground Path, but did not attack us. We were now in the "Sharp Lion Country."

To Ukanip, or bitter river, was twenty-two miles: here we made large fires for the lions, and were up repeatedly in the night to keep the cattle and sheep near us. We made a short march to get water, and then reached the Hoons, or turn round river, where some time before a poor Boschman, who slept here in fancied security, in a cleft between two limestone rocks, had been dragged out and devoured; his kaross and staff only were found. It was considered so very dangerous a place, that we durst not trust only to the dogs as heretofore, but I, with my own men, kept an hour's watch each, during the night, to prevent the fires going out. Lions came round us, but spared us on the night of the 20th, though I lost an ox on the night of the 23d at Hoons fountain.

Passing through a country without inhabitants, and abandoned entirely to the dominion of lions,

with hills generally of no great elevation, and plains covered with prickly shrubs, we outspanned on the Kubieb, or Stick Grass river, where was much iron ore. The lion field was now succeeded by that of the leopard. We killed and ate an ostrich, which, after being wounded, did battle with the hunter; and we had now daily the change of ostrich eggs to feast on.

Twenty-two eggs were the greatest number we found in a nest, and we never got a bad one. Mixing the eggs with a little fat, or occasionally blood (as we were not Jews in any thing but the beard), we made omelettes, which were not to be despised anywhere.

It is commonly supposed that the ostrich is a very stupid bird, that when hard pressed it conceals its head in a bush, and because it cannot see the hunters it imagines they cannot see it, that it is careless about its eggs, &c.; but it appeared to me that the ostrich has quite as much intelligence, and, with the exception of leaving its eggs for some hours, in the heat of the day, for the purpose of feeding—has as much care for its offspring as others of the feathered tribe.

What befell Elliot about this time proves all this.

One evening, he came to me with his face flushed, and out of breath. "What's the matter now?"

"Sir, I've had such a chase after a sick ostrich, and the beast got away from me after all, sir—it got out of a bush, and ran off lame of a leg, and with its wings flapping, for it was mortal sick or badly wounded. I did not stop to fire till I got close to it; two of the dogs and myself chased it to make sure of it—it lay down sometimes, and the dogs could make no hand of it; then it got up again, but so bad was it, that I thought it would tumble over and break its long neck every minute; but I ran three miles after the thief of the world, and it bothered me entirely."

I told him it must have been playing the same trick which partridges practice at home when they have eggs or young, viz., going off as if crippled, to allure the foot of the stranger from their charge. But Elliot maintained that the ostrich was sick or wounded, and could not help

its limping off; till Henrick the hunter came up, carrying half a dozen eggs, and reported he had shot the ostrich which we were talking about.

"I saw it start," said he, "and Elliot after it; I looked about and found its nest with fifteen eggs in it; as it was near sundown, I knew it would soon come back to the nest after decoying Elliot to a distance, so I made a screen of bushes near the nest. I sat down behind it for half an hour, and shot the ostrich on the eggs."

At Herees or wet ground, the scene changed, it was now the South African spring, and though over the plains and on the hills there was the silence of the desert, interrupted only occasionally by the call of the bekmakeri (telophonus collaris), a well known bird at the Cape, and which seemed to welcome us back again, the landscape was most refreshing to look on. The beautiful green of the bushes was contrasted with the varied and resplendent colours of the wild flowers; the bulbs had burst their cerements and were now shooting up or spreading on the surface of the ground their strange

leaves. As we walked after the cattle, and descried, with considerable delight, the mountains south of the Orange river, the feet of the oxen constantly crushed plants which gave out a pungent and aromatic odour. Thus were our senses regaled.

But as "the most lovely roses have thorns," so snakes and scorpions were now rife amidst the flowering plants; and in one narrow valley where we slept uneasily, owing to the overpowering and humid smell of the plants, scorpions ran about us in every direction. But I had plenty of eau-de-luce for their troublesome stings, and a small cylindrical air pump for puff adder bites.

Leopards, with their beautiful skins, lay among the rocks, but spared our sheep. However, when they do attack a flock, they are more destructive than any other wild animal. One leopard will kill twenty sheep in a night, and suck a little of the blood of each only; and when brought to bay in the field, it springs from one hunter to the other, and claws their faces. The experienced cover themselves with their karosses and sit down,

and the leopard will then probably spring over them and pursue fugitives.

On the 30th of July, thinking of past scenes of pleasure, and anticipating future ones, I went merrily ahead to examine the ford of the Kunarusip, or that of the Ebony Black Sheep, where we proposed to cross the Orange river. I urged my ox across the wastes of sand which mark the vicinity of the great stream, and I passed under the grotesque hills, tossed in romantic and endless confusion, which enclose its channel; at last I saw its broad waters rolling clear (fortunately not turbid and in flood) between its ebony-covered banks, and I welcomed it as an old and valued friend.

But black clouds to the eastward, above the sharp peaks and ridges of the distant summits of the "Gariepean walls," warned us that there was no time to lose in getting across the river. Accordingly, slipping off our clothes, and with staves in our hands, we waded, with difficulty, over the smooth stones, and with the water up to our waists, across the upper part of a rapid, down which we were nearly hurried. The waggon

oxen supporting one another, dragged the conveyance across, after much trouble, but the loose oxen were all carried down by the force of the current, and some of the packed ones also swam across. Hours elapsed before the sheep could be got over on the following day, and it was only done by "wooden horses," which were made by cutting trunks of trees, eight feet long, and with a peg on them for one hand; they were bestrode, and were propelled across by foot and hand; a sheep was then pushed into the water, was driven before the "horse marine," and made to swim the rapid.

We were obliged to remain on a sort of island in the river, for two nights, but over which, as we saw by the dry twigs and grass on the trees, the water occasionally swept. Our situation, with the lowering clouds east of us hanging over the mountains up the river, was not free from anxiety, for thus it might have happened with the Gariep.

——— "The glorious stream
That late between its banks was seen to glide;
Had now sent forth its waters, and o'er plain
And valley, like a giant from his bed
Rising, with out-stretched arms superbly spread."

"I remember," said oud Jan, "some terrible floods in the Koanquip which surprised us. The bed of the river, towards the mouth, was quite dry, when down came the water suddenly, and with a great noise, and covered most of the trees. A man and a snake would then be seen in a tall tree, and they did not molest each other, from fear of the torrent; or a man and a panther would be seen together. Many of the people who were living on the banks were swept away and drowned; and we, who were at a little distance, heard the roar, and saw the dreadful consequences of the flood with trembling."

"On the banks of the Gariep, too, I recollect," continued he, "that a honey seeker once climbed a cliff and loaded himself with honey; whilst he was securing his burden, he heard below him a roar, and looking down, he saw that the river had come down so as to separate him from his people on the other side; he accordingly cut a block of wood, launched it, and bestriding it, he tried, for a long time, to get into the stream, but he could not, for the eddy always drove him back; at last he struggled out into the middle of the river, but

there the force of the current was so great that he was forced to yield to it; he was carried down, and was quite unable to help himself. He saw dead sea cows rolling down the river, and trees which had been torn up by the roots; he passed over the tops of others, and he went a week's journey on foot, in two days and two nights, on the log, subsisting on the honeycomb, which he had before him. At last he came to where the trees ended below 'Aris, and he thought that he should surely now be carried out to sea, when a lucky branch caught him, and he stuck fast; but he was so cold and benumbed that it was a long time before he could walk and get to his friends again."

We gladly left the ford of the Kunarusip,* as the river is a deceitful beauty, and moving along the stream for five miles towards another ford, called Numedamas, or the Shining Eye, we turned from the Great River, and travelled south; but we lost our oxen, for they moved off

* A conspicuous mountain opposite the ford I named after James Mackillop, Esq., late M.P. for Tregony, a valued friend.

to a great distance to pick up their food, having subsisted on nothing but the tops of bushes and ebony leaves for many days. Where we passed the Orange there was no grass, though there is always plenty in other parts of the course of the river.

Travelling between hills and over fresh and rank vegetation as before, we reached Ubib or Brack Place, where we out-spanned among tamarisk-trees. The jackals at night yelling round us brought on stories at the fire of these animals, of their cunning as compared with the stupidity of other beasts; and I trust it will not be thought trifling, if I give a specimen or two of these Namaqua nights' entertainments.

Once on a time, a jackal, which lived on the borders of the Colony, saw a waggon returning from the sea-side, laden with fish; he tried to get into the waggon from behind, but he could not; he then ran on before, and lay in the road as if dead. The waggon came up to him, and the leader cried to the driver, "Here is a fine kaross for your wife!"

"Throw it into the waggon," said the driver, and the jackal was thrown in.

The waggon travelled on, through a moonlight night, and all the while the jackal was throwing out the fish into the road; he then jumped out himself, and secured a great prize. But a stupid old wolf (hyena) coming by, ate more than his share, for which the jackal owed him a grudge, and he said to him, "You can get plenty of fish too, if you lie in the way of a waggon as I did, and keep quite still whatever happens."

"So!" mumbled the wolf.

Accordingly, when the next waggon came from the sea, the wolf stretched himself out in the road. "What ugly thing is this?" cried the leader, and kicked the wolf. He then took a stick and thrashed it within an inch of its life. The wolf, according to the directions of the jackal, lay quiet as long as he could; he then got up and hobbled off, to tell his misfortune to the jackal, who pretended to comfort him.

"What a pity," said the wolf, "I have not got such a handsome skin as you have."

Again;—A tiger (leopard) was returning home from hunting on one occasion, when he lighted on the kraal of a ram. Now, the tiger

had never seen a ram before, and accordingly, approaching submissively, he said, "Good day, friend! what may your name be?"

The other, in his gruff voice, and striking his breast with his fore-foot, said, "I am a ram. Who are you?"

"A tiger," answered the other, more dead than alive; and then, taking leave of the ram, he ran home as fast as he could.

A jackal lived at the same place as the tiger did, and the latter going to him, said, "Friend jackal, I am quite out of breath, and am half dead with fright, for I have just seen a terrible-looking fellow, with a large and a thick head, and on my asking him what his name was, he answered roughly, 'I am a ram.'"

"What a foolish tiger you are?" cried the jackal, "to let such a nice piece of flesh stand! Why did you do so? but we shall go to-morrow, and eat it together?"

Next day the two set off for the kraal of the ram, and as they appeared over a hill, the ram, who had turned out to look about him, and was calculating where he should that day crop a tender

salad, saw them, and he immediately went to his wife, and said, "I fear this is our last day, for the jackal and tiger are both coming against us. What shall we do?"

"Don't be afraid," said the wife, "but take up the child in your arms; go out with it, and pinch it, to make it cry as if it were hungry." The ram did so, as the confederates came on.

No sooner did the tiger cast his eyes on the ram, than fear again took possession of him, and he wished to turn back. The jackal had provided against this, and made the tiger fast to himself with a leathern thong, and said, "Come on!" when the ram cried in a loud voice, and pinching his child at the same time, "You have done well, friend jackal, to have brought us the tiger to eat, for you hear how my child is crying for food!"

On these dreadful words, the tiger, notwithstanding the entreaties of the jackal to let him go, to let him loose, set off in the greatest alarm, dragged the jackal after him over hill and valley, through bushes and over rocks, and never stopped to look behind him till he brought back

himself and the half-dead jackal to his place again. And so the ram escaped.

Lastly, a jackal and a wolf went and hired themselves to a man to be his servants. In the middle of the night the jackal rose and smeared the wolf's tail with some fat, and then ate all the rest of it in the house. In the morning the man missed his fat, and he immediately accused the jackal of having eaten it. "Look at the wolf's tail," said the rogue, "and you shall see who is the thief." The man did so, and then thrashed the wolf till it was nearly dead.

These stories are absurd enough; but they serve to show how "children of a larger growth" can be amused in the region of the Orange river.

On the 3d of August the waggon went on to Aneip, or wet foot; and I went out of the way with Jan Buys and two or three men, to see a hole which was supposed to be inhabited by Heije Eibib, or the devil, and was the wonder of the country.

We crossed the Chunap, or troublesome river, and on the side of a limestone hill, we saw a black pit, the mouth of which was twelve feet

across. I immediately set fire to a few bushes and threw them in, and lowered a stone with a fishing-line, whilst oud Jan stood by in alarm, thinking that something terrible would fly out of this reported bottomless and mysterious pit, when behold! it was found to contain nothing, and was only fifty feet deep, and so the cave lost its reputation.

Whilst we lay at Aneip, I saw through my glass two men approaching us from the Orange river, and driving a horse before them: in one of them I recognized a Dutchman who had run away from the colony, it was said, for a murder, and who had married a Namaqua wife, and who lived in the Orange river. In the other, I recognised Martinus, the miscreant Bastaard, who might have got all our throats cut by spreading the report, as I formerly stated, of our having gone to Namaqua land to take the country, and enslave the people!

Not wishing to have any altercation with Martinus, I sent a messenger to him to say, that I knew what he had done; that notwithstanding his cowardly and wicked attempt to injure us, he

might now pass on, but that I could not see him. Martinus vehemently protested his innocence, and said that if I did not see him he would be disgraced; but I was obstinate and would not, and again sent to tell him to be off at once, and he accordingly disappeared.

An ox was falling behind each day from fatigue, and when we got to the rocks of Nus, it seemed that we could not drag the waggon into the colony at all; and therefore, I halted two days, dispatched two men to Komakas on my freshest oxen, to ask help from my worthy friend, Mr. Schmelen, and slowly followed with the rest. Of the oxen we had eaten a span of 14, and lost another span by fatigue!

A night march of thirty miles, chiefly on foot, brought us to the grass flat of Kuras, abounding in puff adders and other dangerous reptiles. At Kama we came on our old spoor. At Ukribip, Paul Lynx, the one-eyed chief of the Orange river mouth, came with three or four mounted attendants to congratulate me on my safe return. At the Kowsie I was met by a party of Mr. Schmelen's people, with a fresh

span of oxen. We joyfully crossed the boundary, partook of some bread from Komakas, found that it had no taste, as we were spoilt by having subsisted so long on strong animal food; and on the 10th of August we again found ourselves on chairs, and in a bed, at the mission station at Komakas.

I recovered from the Kamiesberg my large expedition-waggon, and being again able, with my government order, to get assistance from the Boors, I parted from Jan and Henrick Buys, who had done me such good service, which I endeavoured to repay with a couple of capital elephant guns, &c., and, after a week's halt, I again "took the road," having received, as before, the kindest treatment from the family of Mr. Schmelen. Ὁ Ἄνθρωπος εὐεργετος πεφυκῶς. "Man is born to be a doer of good."

After a couple of marches, I visited a natural curiosity—not another cave of Heije Eibib, but a fat Dutch woman, whose bulk would have considerably assisted to fill the hole we had lately seen. Catchee Vanderkniver was the name of this lusty dame. She had not walked for

some ten or twelve years, her fat had so increased upon her. I found her sitting up in bed in the middle of the day, dirty with snuff and grease, and more resembling a hippopotamus under a quilt than a human being. Before her, and by the side of the door, was her arm chair, in which I was lost. On one of the arms was fixed an iron spoon, on which Catchee was in the habit of hammering marrow bones, and then scooping up the rich morsels with her delicate forefinger. In a choking voice she told me she was eighty-four years of age, and remembered a French traveller in these parts who had taken liberties with a female relative of hers, on which she had taken a stick to him, and belaboured him out of doors. I could well believe this, for her slaves approached the testy old lady in fear and trembling.

Following nearly the same route to the Cape as I had taken on the outgoing journey as far as Field Cornet Hanekom's, I there turned to the left, to pass through the well-watered and beautiful district of the Four-and-Twenty rivers, spent two days at the delightful villages of the

Paarl and Stellenbosch; and as I had taken up my pilgrim's staff in the finest season of the year, when the face of nature was fresh and green with verdure, and brilliant with wild flowers, so, bearded like a pard, and brown as a Berber, I reached Cape Town during the same vernal time, on the 21st of September.

I was in health and strength; and I felt very grateful for the manner in which myself and people had been mercifully preserved on an expedition, certainly the roughest I had ever undertaken. In justice to my people, I must say that they were animated by a good spirit during the journey; they were respectful and obedient, and showed no want of courage; and, above all, they generally submitted with patience to the privations and hardships, to which such an undertaking as ours was always exposed.

Besides bringing back my seven attendants in safety to the Cape, my papers, drawings, and collections were also fortunately entire. Great part of our journey, of nearly 4,000 miles, was performed on foot, the rest on horseback and on a bullock. For about a year we had not slept

out of our clothes or shoes, and subsisted on the coarsest food and the dirtiest water. The objects of natural history (particularized in the Appendix) comprised skins of many of the large game animals, as the rhinoceros, lion, zebra, koodoo, &c. The bird skins amounted to three hundred and twenty specimens; and a *hortus siccus* consisted of about the same number of plants.

During the whole journey the rocks were found to be chiefly of primitive formation; granite, old red sandstone, mica slate (particularly about the Kuisip), quartz, with imbedded crystals of felspar, hornblende, &c. I brought away many specimens of copper, and some iron.

It is earnestly to be hoped that extended intercourse with the natives beyond the Orange river, will result from this expedition, for their benefit and for that of our colonists; and that from the Cape, the blessings of civilization and religion will proceed by degrees, towards the Mountains of the Moon. Neither discovery nor moral improvement can proceed rapidly in Africa; but we must be continually endeavouring to promote both of these important objects.

The attentions of my friends at Cape Town, soon effaced the recollection of most of the troubles and trials I had experienced, during my twelvemonths' life in the bush—the associate of wild men and wild beasts. I became gradually civilized again. To reclaim me entirely from the savage state, I fortunately married, and in three days after the ceremony, I was on board the Hindoostan Indiaman; and, after a prosperous voyage of eight weeks, we once more reached London alive and well, on Christmas-Day.

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APPENDIX.

No. I.

NOTICE OF THE OBJECTS OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTED DURING THE EXPEDITION.

After my arrival in England I submitted the collection I had made of African quadrupeds, birds, plants, &c., to various scientific individuals, that I might have the benefit of their advice in giving a description of the most interesting specimens, and I was fortunate in having the assistance of gentlemen of such eminence as Sir John Herschel, Professor Lindley, Professor Don, Dr. R. D. Thompson, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. W. Ogilby, Mr. J. Gould, Mr. J. E. Gray, Mr. G. Waterhouse, &c., whilst arranging my materials for this notice.

I. ZOOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Mr. W. Ogilby furnished the annexed list of new and rare mammalia collected during the Damara expedition.

I.—Quadrumana.

1. *Cynocephalus Porcarius* (Boddeart).

II.—Cheiroptera

2. *Nycteris Affinis* (Dr. Smith).

III.—Insectivora.

3. *Chrysochloris Damarensis* (Ogilby) new species.
4. *Macroscelides Alexandri* (Ogilby) new species.
5. *Macroscelides Melanotis* (Ogilby) new species.

IV.—Carnivora.

6. *Gulo Capensis* (Schreber).
7. *Mustela Zorilla* (Desmarest).
8. *Viverra Felina?* (Thunberg).
9. *Herpestes Melanurus* (Dr. Smith).
10. *Cynctis Ogilbii* (Dr. Smith).
11. *Proteles Cristata* (Penny Cyclopædia, 1, 2).
12. *Canis Megalotis* (Cuvier).
13. *Canis Mesomelas* (Erxleben).
14. *Felis Leo* (Linnæus).
15. *Felis Nigripes* (Burchell).

V.—Rodentia.

16. *Bathyergus Damarensis* (Ogilby) new species.
17. *Graphyurus elegans* (Ogilby) new species.
18. *Geosciurus Capensis* (Dr. Smith).
19. *Lepus Rupestris* (Dr. Smith).

VI.—Pachydermata.

20. *Equus Zebra* (Linnæus).
21. *Rhinoceros Africanus* (Desmarest).
22. *Rhinoceros Simus?* (Burchell) an imperfect skull.
23. *Hyrax Capensis* (Schreber).

VII.—Ruminantia.

24. *Antilope Euchore* (Forster).
25. *Antilope Tragulus* (Forster).
26. *Antilope Tragulōides* (Ogilby) new species.

It will be observed from the preceding catalogue, that nearly a fourth of the mammalia are new species, that is to say, six out of twenty-six, and of the remaining twenty, seven, viz., Nos. 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, and 21, are still rare in cabinets of natural history.

Besides the above, I brought home the first specimen which has appeared in Europe, of the *Aigoceros Niger* (Harris), or Sable Antelope. This magnificent animal has now been described in the Transactions of the Zoological Society, and was shot in the Zoolah Country in 1837 by Captain Harris, of the Bombay Engineers, an intelligent and enterprising officer.

"On examining the interesting collection of birds brought home by Captain Alexander from the interior of South Africa," says Mr. Gould, "I find many rare species, and several which appear to me to be new to science. The collection consists of 320 specimens and 125 species,—the following is a slight enumeration of them:—

"Of the raptorial order, or birds of prey, there are thirty-four specimens and sixteen species, viz., two vultures, *Neophron Peronopterus*, and *N. Monachus;* twenty-two falcons (ten species), among the more remarkable of which is a very beautiful eagle, with a red breast and white tail, and a very diminutive true falcon, half as large again as a sparrow, with a red back and spotted tail; eleven owls (four species), one of the genus *Surnia*, two of *Scops*, and one of *Athene*.

"Of the Insessorial order, or perching birds, there are two hundred and thirty-five specimens and seventy species —of these, seventeen specimens (six species) belong to the Fissirostral tribe, viz., one *Caprimulgus;* two species of *Coracias*, one of which the natives say alights on the horn

of the rhinoceros. These examples are highly interesting, as showing the southern limit of the range of this beautiful tropical form. Two species of *Merops*, and one *Alcedo*. Of the Dentirostral tribe there are sixty specimens (twenty-two species), among which occur examples of the following genera: *Lanius* (two species), *Crateropus*, *Petrocincla*, *Saxicola*, *Ixos*. Of the Conirostres eighty-six specimens (twenty-five species), comprising examples of the genera *Euplectes*, *Estrilda*, *Amadina*, *Ploceus*, *Pastor*, *Lamprotornis*, and *Corvus*. Of the Scansores there are forty-two specimens (twelve species); of the genera *Colius*, *Bucco*, *Picus*, a very rare *Corythaix*, described by Dr. Smith, and an apparently new *Agapornis*, or small parrot. Of the Tenuirostres thirty specimens (six species), of the genera *Upupa*, *Rhinopomastus*, *Cinnyris*, &c. Of the Rasorial order there are eight or ten species, among which are two or three species of pigeons, and examples of the genera *Otis* (three species). *Cursorius*, *Pterocles*, *Francolinus*, *Struthio*, *Charadrius*, &c.

"The collection is not so rich in birds of the Grallatorial and Natatorial orders, as in those of the preceding. Among the grallatores are examples of the genera *Numenius*, *Ardea*, *Tringa*, *Gallinula*, and *Umbretta*; and in the Natatores, *Anser*, *Anas*, and *Podiceps*."

Mr. G. Waterhouse thus describes the birds which are figured.

1. Crateropus bicolor.
2. Petrocincla brevipes.
3. Lanioturdus torquatus.
4. Coracias nuchalis.
5. Psittacula roseicollis.
6. Francolinus adspersus.

Of these, 2, 3, and 6, are new species.

FAMILY MERULIDÆ.

1. Crateropus bicolor, *Jardine.*

"Dirty white; wings and tail dusky black: legs and beak black.

	in.	lin.
Total length . . .	9	9
Length of tail . . .	4	7
——— of beak . . .	1	2
——— of tarsus . .	1	4

Habitat, Mountains of Victoria, Damara land.

FAMILY MERULIDÆ.

2. Petrocincla brevipes, *Waterh.*

"Neck and back ashy-gray; crown of head gray-white, this colour extending on to the neck, where it blends with the deeper gray of the back; ear coverts blackish gray; primaries and secondaries black, edged with gray; under wing coverts, tail, rump, upper tail coverts, and the whole of the body beneath, from the lower part of the neck downwards, of a bright brownish orange colour: the two central tail feathers black; the remaining tail feathers slightly edged with black externally near the apex: legs and beak black.

	in.	lin.
Total length . . .	7	0
Length of tail . . .	2	10
——— of tarsus . .	1	$0\frac{1}{4}$
——— of beak . .	1	$0\frac{1}{2}$
——— of wing . .	4	3

Habitat, 'Tans Mountain, Damara land.

"The specific name of *brevipes* has been applied to this species, from the circumstance of the tarsi being so much shorter in proportion than in those with which it

is most closely allied, I allude to the two South African species P. *perspicax* and P. *explorator*. It agrees in size with the former of these, but may at once be distinguished, not only by its short tarsi (which measure upwards of a quarter of an inch less), but in possessing a much longer beak, smaller and shorter toes, and weaker claws—the dilated portion of the central claw is not so wide, but extends nearer to the apex of the claw. The tail is longer in proportion, and the parts described as ashy-gray, are of a deeper hue than in P. *perspicax*, and are totally devoid of the blue tint which is conspicuous in that species. The whitish top to the head, and the dark ear coverts, also remove the present species from that with which it is compared. The P. *Explorator* is a larger bird, and differs so much in colouring and proportions, that it is unnecessary to make a comparison.

FAMILY LANIADÆ.

3. Genus LANIOTURDUS, *Waterh.*

"Bill as long as the head, moderately stout, slightly notched, and indistinctly curved at the tip; nostrils basal and linear, partially covered by small incumbent feathers; gape provided with slender bristles: wings short, feeble, and rounded; the secondaries large in proportion; first primary short; third, fourth, fifth and sixth nearly equal; the second shorter than the third: tail short and nearly even: tarsi long and somewhat powerful; feet short but strong; claws much compressed, and arched.

Sp. L. TORQUATUS, *Waterh.*

"General colour gray: head black; a frontal stripe, extending backwards over the eyes, white: throat, and fore

part of the neck, white, the white extending in a narrow line round the back of the neck: a black belt encircling the back of the neck and extending across the chest: wings black; a large white patch at the base of the secondaries: the primaries white at the base, and edged with white at the apex; secondaries broadly tipped with white: tail white, the two central feathers having a large oblong black dash near the tip; vent feathers white, the white extending forwards along the centre of the abdomen: feathers of thighs broadly tipped with white: bill and legs black.

	in.	lin.
Total length . . .	6	0
Length of tail . . .	1	9
——— of tarsus . .	1	2½
——— of beak . . .	0	11
——— of wing . .	3	6

Habitat, Bull's Mouth Pass, Boschman land.

"Not finding this bird described in the various works which I have consulted, nor yet being acquainted with a genus into which it can conveniently be placed, I have been under the necessity of characterizing a new genus for its reception. Its general characters indicate that its true affinities are with the Laniadæ, and it appears most nearly related to the members of the sub-family *Thamnophilina* of Swainson. Its thrush-like beak, short square tail, and long tarsi, however, will serve to distinguish it generally. It has the long and soft rump-feathers which are always found in the Thamnophili.

FAMILY CORVIDÆ (*Leach*)?

4. Coracias nuchalis, *Dr. Smith.*

"Brownish green: frontal feathers white, the white feathers extended backwards on each side, and forming a broadish line immediately above the eye? some bluish-white feathers on occiput: shoulders, primaries, secondaries, and tail feathers, deep ultra-marine blue; the outer web of the first primary greenish; the outer web of the other primaries are also greenish towards the apical portion of the feather: the two central tail feathers are dusky green, excepting towards the base: wing coverts purple-red, shaded into purple towards the base of the wing: tail coverts pale purple-blue: throat, chest, and body beneath rufous purple, each feather having a white line along the centre: beak black; legs brownish.

	in.	lin.
Total length . . .	13	0
Length of tail . . .	5	3
——— of beak . .	1	11
——— of tarsus . .	1	0

Habitat, Great Flat, Boschman land.

FAMILY PSITTACIDÆ.

5. Psittacula roseicollis, *Vieillot.*

"Bright green: beak large and of a whitish colour; fore part of the head as far back as the eyes, of a bright crimson colour; a few feathers of the same hue narrowly surround the upper part of the eye, and occupying a small space behind the eye: the cheeks, throat, and chest, of a pale red, approaching to a rose colour; rump and upper tail coverts turquois blue: primaries with the inner web dusky:

tail with a broad band of a dull vermilion colour, beyond this, the feathers are green, becoming bluish towards the apex, and there is a black spot on the inner edge of each feather: two central tail feathers green.

	in.	lin.
Length	5	9

Habitat, 'Un'uma Mountains, Great Namaqua land.

FAMILY TETRAONIDÆ.

6. Francolinus adspersus, *Waterh.*

"Above gray-brown; each feather crowded with extremely delicate and irregular black markings: primaries deep brown freckled with pale brown: neck and body beneath with irregular transverse black (or brownish-black) and white markings; each feather having from ten to twelve waved black bands, which are about equal in width to the interspaces: legs and beak red: tarsus short.

"In a second specimen, not adult, most of the feathers of the back present a white line along the centre, and an irregular, but somewhat lance-shaped black spot towards the apex; and on the belly most of the feathers are brown with transverse white markings, these white bands being finely edged with black: upper mandible black.

	in.	lin.
Total length . . .	13	0
Length of beak . .	1	1
——— of tarsus . .	2	0

Habitat, Fish River, Great Namaqua land.

"This Francolin, of which I have not seen the male sex, is closely allied to the F. *clamosus* of authors: it is how-

ever of a smaller size, and besides the difference in the colouring and markings, it may be distinguished by the tarsi being shorter in proportion."

Mr. Gray names a small lizard, with blunt toes, and which is said to be so poisonous that its bite occasions death within an hour, the "*Phyllodactylus lineatus.* Pale brown, temples, back, sides, and tail, with narrow longitudinal black streaks. Scales of the back, small, oblong, triangular, smooth; of the belly, rather larger and flatter; of the tail, larger, thicker, and more expanded. Inhabits Namaqua land, where it is called Geitjie."

Some land shells collected during the expedition about the Great Fish River, prove to be new to science. Mr. Gray thus describes them, the specimens now being in the collection of the British Museum, as is also the Geitjie.

Dorcasia, Gray, (*Helicidæ*).—Shell rather depressed, last whorle rather produced out or its direction, mouth orbicular ovate, elevated from the body whorle, quite free, oblique to the axis, and edged with a continued thin reflexed peristome; axis slightly perforated. (Animal like Helix?)

Dorcasia Alexandri, Gray.—Shell rather depressed; smooth, pale brown, pellucid, axis very slightly perforated. Diameter 15; axis 6 lines.

Helicodonta Sculpturata, Gray.—Shell, depressed umbilicated white; whorles with an irregular subcentral keel, and several spiral ridges, crossed with close narrow concentric ridges; mouth rhombic ovate, with a reflexed lip; throat with a strong ridge in the centre of the inner, and two equidistant ones on the outer lip. Diameter 3½ lines.

Bulimus Hottentota, Gray. — Shell ovate ventricose, white, suture impressed; whorles rather convex, last much the largest; mouth ovate, not quite as long as the spire; lips thickened, not reflexed.

Bulimus Eulimoide, Gray.—Shell turritted; whorle pellucid, polished very finely, concentrically striated; apex rather blunt; whorles 8, rather convex; mouth, ovate; lips simple, axis scarcely perforated. Axis 6 lines.

II.—BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.

"Among the plants," says Dr. Lindley, "collected beyond the country usually visited by strangers, occur two or three species of *Pappophorum*, a curious spiny plant, with hoary leaves and large flowers, somewhat resembling an *Escobedia* in size and appearance, but belonging to the natural order of *Solanaceæ*; several Acanthaceous plants, particularly one with bright blue flowers, and spiny leaves, allied to *Barleria* and *Acanthodium*; the rare *Oloptera Burchellii*, a fine plant related to *Sesamum*, two trees belonging to different species of the genus *Ficus*, several *Amaranthaceæ*, and an apparently new species of *Aptosimum*. The most curious plant is, however, what is called the *'Naras*, bearing a spiny fruit, double the size of an orange; but as yet it is impossible to form any decided opinion concerning it. The specimen resembles *Schepperia juncea* so much, that it would be mistaken for it if it were not for the seeds, which are extremely like those of some cucurbitaceous plants."

On leaving the Cape in September, 1836, during the South African spring, and when the landscape is enriched with wild flowers of every hue, I collected first (according to Professor Don)—*Senecio sp.*, *Lyperia sp.*, *Vicia sativa*,

Dimorphotheca sp., *Moræa tripetala*, *Arctotis sp.*, *Passerina sp.*, *Babiana stricta*, *Aristea cyanea*, *Ixia conica*, *Sparaxis tricolor*, *Ornithogalum sp.*, *Lobelia sp.*, *Heliophila sp.*, *Aristea melaleuca.*

Then about the Piquet berg I found—*Moræa Pavonia*, *Gladiolus alatus*, *Heliophila sp.*, *Othonna sp.*, *Mesembryanthemum pomeridianum*, *Crotolaria sp.*, *Gladiolus sp.*, *Babiana sp.*, *Erica sp.*, *Sparaxis sp.*, *Trichonema sp.*, *Solanum sp.* About the Cedar Mountains varieties of *Mesembryanthemum*, *Atriplex*, *Senecio*, *Cultumia*, *Anchusa capensis.*

At the Kamiesberg in October—*Gladiolus* (new), *Ornithogalum sp.*, *Hebenstretia sp.*, *Tritonia sp.*, *Hemimeris sp.*, *Homeria miniata*, *Pelargonium sp.*, *Othonna leptophylla*, *Malva*, *Pharnaceum sp.*, *Sutherlandia sp.*, *Diosma sp.*, *Penæa sp.*, *Dianella sp.*, *Anthericum sp.?* *Eriocephalussp.*, *Amellus sp.?* *Helichrysum canescens*; and at the Orange River mouth—*Salsola sp.*, *Mesembryanthemum sp.*, *Tanacetum sp.*, *Salsola sp.*, Ebony, *Rhus sp.*

At the Kowsie river—*Tamarix sp.*; at Silver Fountain—*Pteronia sp.*, *Othonna trifurcata*, *Salsola sp.* (soap bush), *Rhus sp.* (bush tea); at Henecrees—*Leyssera gnaphaloides*; at the Warm Bath, in December—*Taxanthema sp.*, *Acacia Giraffæ*, *Selago sp.*; at Africaner's kraal—*Barleria sp.*, *Pelargonium sp.*, *Hibiscus sp.*; at Karas Mountains—*Zizyphus sp.*, *Acacia sp.*, *Celastrus sp.*

About the Kamop river in February—*Tribulus terrestris*, *Aitonia capensis*, *Malva sp.*, *Selago sp.*, *Mahernia sp.*; at Tuais, in March—*Indigofera sp.*, *Cleome sp.*, *Zygophyllum sp.*, *Zizyphus sp.*, *Justicia sp.*, *Lantana sp.*, *Sesbania sp.*, *Clitoria sp.*; on the Kei Kaap—*genus novum*, *Acacia sp.*, *Cleome sp.*, *Justicia sp.*, *Malva sp.*,

Ocymum sp.; Great Fish river—*Relhania sp., Sesbania sp., Mahernia sp., Sesamum sp.? Bidens sp.*

Bull's Mouth Pass—*Acacia sp., Celosia sp., Cleome sp., Barleria pungens, Sesamum sp.? Cynanchum sp.* (the short and thick tree with the smooth bark, called "cheis" by the Namaquas), *Salvadora sp., Acanthus carduifolius,* fig trees.

At the Kuisip, in April—*Salvadora sp.,* willows, *Eragrostis sp., Arundo sp., Oplismenus sp.;* 'Naras, in May —*Acacia* (new), *Celastrus sp., Ruellia sp., Tragia capensis, Sesamum sp.?* great varieties of grapes, *Indigofera sp., Celosia sp., Periploca sp.* (?), *Cynanchum sp.*

At Niais, Damara land, in May—*Relhania sp., Clematis triloba, Tarchonanthus camphoratus;* at Glenelg's Bath, in June—*Justicia sp., Relhania sp., Acanthus carduifolius,* which, as we often saw its bright blue flowers on the dry plain, where there was nothing else agreeable to look upon, I termed "our comfort in the wilderness."

At the Huerap river—*Sida sp., Ficus sp., Barleria pungens, Euphorbia sp.;* Kubieb river, in July—*Rhus sp., Senecio sp., Heliophila sp., Dimorphotheca sp.;* Valley of Scorpions—*Sutherlandia sp., Selago sp., Galium sp., Dimorphotheca pluvialis, Didelta spinosum, Mesembryanthemum sp., Lyperia sp., Didelta carnosum, Leyssera gnaphaloides, Mahernia vernicata, Senecio sp., Charieis sp., Anthospermum æthiopicum, Euphorbia sp., Zygophyllum cordifolium, Justicia capensis?* at the rocks of Nus, in August—*Leucas sp., Asparagus sp., Oxalis sp.;* Kowsie river—*Monsonia pilosa, Lessertia sp., Charieis sp., Pyrethrum sp., Tanacetum sp., Mesembryanthemum sp., Hebenstretia sp., Heliophila sp., Osteospermum sp.?* bulbous plants.

MINERALOGICAL SPECIMENS.

I stated before, that the geology of the countries traversed on the expedition showed a primitive formation throughout. Of the copper ore submitted to Sir John Herschel at the Cape, he said, "that the specimen which he examined, in which was none of the madrix, appeared te be the submuriate, or rather, that particular chloride, which, on a calculation of its presumed atomic constitution, gave a result of 64 or 65 per cent. of copper."

The specimen assayed in London by Mr. Johnson, of Hatton Garden, gave 28, with 4 of sulphur; and perhaps the average of the Orange river copper is about a third, which is quite sufficient to induce a company (now forming) to work it.

Sir John Herschel read before the Literary and Scientific Institution of South Africa, of which he was President, the following notice of a chemical examination of a specimen of native iron, from the east bank of the Great Fish River, and which I had presented to the Institution.

"The specimen in question weighed originally 21·79 grains; 3·12 of which were separated, and submitted to a hasty preliminary examination for the detection of nickel, if any, but the quantity proving too small, the whole of the remainder was operated on in a subsequent trial.

"The iron was highly malleable and tenacious, and apparently of excellent quality, with a somewhat whiter and more silvery lustre than belongs to the metal in its ordinary state, and apparently little liable to oxidation, qualities which are observed in iron, of what is usually considered undoubted meteoric origin.

"I should not think it necessary to detail the steps of the

analysis, by which the presence of nickel in the proportion of 4·61 per cent. was demonstrated, but for a peculiarity in one part of the process by which an inconvenience of frequent occurrence in chemical operations, and of a very embarrassing nature, was obviated, and which may prove useful as a hint to young analysts in other cases.

"18·67 grains of the iron in one piece, were digested in dilute nitric acid, which dissolved the whole with the exception of a trifling quantity of black scaly matter, apparently amounting to about a quarter of a grain. Towards the end of the solution the iron more than once brightened on the surface, and assumed that peculiar and singular state of resistence to the action of the acid which I have described in the Annalis de Chimie for September, 1833, and which has since been the subject of so much interesting discussion by Professor Schoenhein, Sir M. Farraday, and others. In consequence, it was necessary to apply and maintain heat to complete the solution.

"The nitric solution was evaporated to dryness, water added and evaporated a second and a third time. By this the whole of the iron was peroxidized, and nearly the whole separated. It was then diffused and boiled in water, to which a few drops of nitric acid were added, to take up any oxid of nickel which might have been deprived of its acid by over-heating, and set aside for subsidence, filtration being out of the question.

"After standing a week, however, it was still perfectly opaque, and loaded with suspended peroxide of iron, and to get rid of this was the next object.

"Lead being a metal easily eliminated, and incapable of interfering in any of the subsequent processes, its introduction seemed not likely to prove any source of further

embarrassment; a few drops of dilute nitrate of lead were therefore added, and being well mixed, as much sulphuric acid as would saturate the lead, and a little more was added, and the whole boiled. The precipitation was complete, the lead carrying down with it all the suspended ferruginous matter, and leaving a clear liquid of a greenish hue, in which the presence of lead could not be detected.

"The remaining iron held in solution, was removed by heating it with excess of carbonate of lime, in the manner pointed out by me in the Phil. Trans. for 1821, when, after filtration, a liquid remained of that peculiar tint of pale green which characterizes the solutions of nickel, and of considerable indensity.

"The presence of this metal was ascertained on concentrating the solution by the usual tests, and its quantity concluded, viz.—0·86 grains, or 4·61 per cent. on the specimen analysed.

"Thus it appears that the specimen brought home by Capt. Alexander, has equal claim to a meteoric origin with any of those masses of native nickeliferous iron which have been found in different localities, and to which that origin has, without other evidence, been attributed.

"All those specimens, however, have, so far as I know, been insulated single masses. But what constitutes the peculiar and important feature of this discovery of Capt. Alexander, is the fact stated by him of the occurrence of masses of this native iron in abundance, scattered over the surface of a considerable tract of country. If a meteoric origin be attributed to all these, a shower of iron must have fallen, and as we can imagine no cause for the explosion of a mass of iron, and can hardly conceive a force capable of rending into fragments, a cold block of this

very tenacious material, we must of necessity conclude it to have arrived in a state of fusion, and been scattered around by the assistance of the air or otherwise, in a melted, or at least, softened state."

Such, then, is a notice of some of the most interesting specimens of my collection of Natural History, which (besides several karosses, arms, and implements of the natives) was as large as I could make it, under the peculiar circumstances, explained in the preface, and elsewhere in the narrative, which served to confine it within portable bounds. Ere long, I expect that my follower, Taylor, who returned to Namaqua Land to collect, will enable me to lay before the public some more new and rare specimens.

APPENDIX No. II.

ITINERARY OF THE AFRICAN EXPEDITION OF DISCOVERY OF 1837.

CAPE TOWN TO WALVISCH BAY—NIAIS—CAPE TOWN.

CAPE TOWN to	Miles
Laubscher's Farm	17
Proctor's Farm	17
Malmsbury	16
M. Smit's Farm	20
Berg River	17
Hanekom's Farm	22
Kruis	21
Company's Drift	15
Lang Vley	15
CLANWILLIAM	24
Uitkomst	24
Vley	15
Outspan	20
Ebenezer	24
Olifant's R. Mouth	24
De Toit's Farm	20
Kalk gat	18
Paddegat	30
Zwartdoorn River	27
Groen River	18
Hoog Fountain	21
Horn gat	27
LILY FOUNTAIN	4

LILY FOUNTAIN to	Miles
Keerom	40
Komakas	20
Bont Koe	33
'Kama	35
Jackal-Holes	35
'Aris	15
ORANGE RIVER MOUTH	22
Lily Fountain	200
F. Coetzers	12
Silver Fountain	27
Copper Berg	21
Koekus	15
Bezondermeid	24
Eerebies Fountain	18
Henkrees	18
Koran Ford	24
Sand Fountain	24
Ahuries	12
NESBITT'S BATH	24
Dry Plain	18
Kururu	26
Outspan	21
Naros	18

Naros to	Miles
Outspan	24
Africaner's Kraal	12
Dry River	20
Salt River	20
Dry Outspan	20
Nesbitt's Bath	44
Dubbee 'Knabies	18
'Knabies	18
Kurehas	6
Old Kraal	12
'Kanus	10
Aribanees	16
Keikap	22
Kamopkams	12
'Kanus	50
Plain	9
Height	10
Chubeechees	25
Plain	16
Broken Liver Fountain	10
Dry River	22
Nanebis	11
'Kamop Ford	7
Dry River	10
Great Fish River	14
'Neims	10
Dry Outspan	9
Habunap	13
Dry Outspan	25
Kusis River	10
Bethany	22

Bethany to	Miles
Koanquip River	25
Tamuhap River	6
'Nanees	9
Dry Outspan	18
'Tuais	7
Koanquip River	21
Dry Outspan	15
Dry River	19
Ansabib	16
Great Fountain	22
Huntop River	22
Arigha 'oup River	21
Arigha 'oup River	7
'Oosep River	7
Narop River	10
Narop River	15
Nameless River	16
Bull's Mouth Pass	9
Chuntop River	7
Nameless River	2
Chuntop River	19
Ababies	12
Dry Valley	30
Desert Outspan	13
Kuisip River	13
Off-pack (on River)	8
Ditto	8
Ditto	20
Ditto	12
Ditto	25
Ditto	15

KUISIP RIVER to	Miles
Off-pack (on River)	16
Ditto	16
Red Bank	8
Huts	13
WALVISCH BAY	13
Sand Down	13
Red Bank	15
'Gnu'hooas	24
Gnei'tueip	8
'Hou'tous	20
Dry Off-pack	35
'Humaris River	28
KUISIP	17
Kereekama	12
'Onakusis	20
'Abashouap	13
'Unus	9
Chu'ntop	18
Taop River	21
Chunchuap	28
'Naraes	26
'NI'AIS	12
Keikurup River	12
Glenelg's Bath	26
Gnu'tuais	10
Tuap River	18
Kukama	21
Chounp River	30
Hoakosams	20
Hatep	19
'KUIS	8

'KUIS to	Miles
Kaikum River	12
Kaikum River	11
'Nubapis	21
Chup River	28
Kuhap	12
Huntop River	16
Huntop River	7
'Keisu River	17
Dry Off-pack	21
Kutip River	30
Ku''ums River	11
Koan'quip Rivers	27
Lion' Fountain	20
Dry River	20
HENRICK BUY'S PLACE	13
Bethany	15
'Quahanap River	7
Dry Outspan	21
Hudap	9
'Ukanip River	22
Outspan	5
'Hoons River	27
'Hoons Fountain	9
Kubieb River	18
Heineip River	24
Outspan	13
Heris	10
Valley of Scorpions	24
ORANGE RIVER	24
Outspan	10
'Ubip	16

'Ubip to	Miles
Aneip	9
Rocks of Nus	15
Kuras	30
'Kama	18
Ukribip	18
Haruhap	21
Kowsie River	12
KOMAKAS	24
Plat Klip	18
Kok Fountain	14
The Poort	15
Klip Vley	18
Skuin's Kraal	10
Moordenaar's Kraal	25
Briuntjes Hoogte	6
Kogel Fountain	13
Meer Kastel	14

Meer Kastel to	Miles
Droog Kraal	22
Riem Hoogte	20
OLIPHANT'S RIVER	5
Puts Vley	20
Heerlodgement	10
Uitkomst	23
Lang Vley	18
Stink Fountain	18
Boomzager's Farm	9
Field-cornet Hanekom's	14
Field-cornet Lambreght's	24
Cobus Smit's (24 Rivers)	30
Vogel Vley	12
Eikeboom	15
Paarl Village	20
Stellenbosch Village	16
CAPE TOWN	36

*** The translations of most of the names in this Itineray are inserted in the Narrative of the Expedition.

APPENDIX No. III.

NOTES ON THE COLONY OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

1. The importance of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope, in a military and a commercial point of view, to Great Britain, is too well known to those acquainted with our colonial empire, to need any elucidation here: that it is an outwork to our valuable eastern possessions, and that it has been to a certain extent, and that it might be to a very great extent, an outlet for our manufactures and for our redundant population, and that it might become an emporium for a great South American trade, are sufficient to induce attention to it, and a desire, in those who have the power, to promote its prosperity.

2. A stranger who had never seen Cape Town before, and who might have arrived there in the end of last year, would immediately have concluded, after a hasty outside view, that the aspect of affairs was very prosperous, for he would have seen no ruins, but many new houses rising in various directions. However, these appearances of prosperity were deceitful—the influx of compensation money for slaves had given a temporary show of wealth; and as, unfortunately, there are hardly any other means of investing money except in houses, there is, at present, quite a rage for building.

3. But it is painful to record the fact, that at the beginning of this year a cloud rested on the Cape of Good Hope,

and that the colony was in a languishing condition. We made diligent inquiries into the causes of this, and we found, from the conversation of intelligent individuals, that the unpromising state of affairs there was thus accounted for: first, from the evils attending party spirit; and, secondly, from the extensive emigration of the Boors from the colony.

4. In this, as in other colonies and communities, there is a good deal of party spirit, and a want of combination for the general good. At the Cape, a set of men, disappointed in their ambitious views, had been constantly at work to thwart and oppose the colonial government: hence originated a spirit of party, which broke up the community into rival and conflicting interests, producing weakness and vacillation.

5. Thus, also, the Home Government, between conflicting statements, have not been able to ascertain what may be really the best plans for benefitting the Cape, which has consequently been left in a manner to itself. Soon, however, it is to be hoped, the aspect of affairs will improve there; and it is earnestly recommended, that the merchants and others interested in the Cape, will bestir themselves, and by the formation of companies for useful objects, such as for the purpose of introducing steam vessels on the southern coasts of Africa, to clear the mouths of rivers, to improve the communication between one part of the colony and another, &c., that the tide will turn in favour of this old and improveable colony.

6. The value of a colony to the mother country, as a means of assisting the revenue at home, and which can also pay its own expenses, is always an object of primary importance. Now, it is believed that a much greater revenue might

be derived from the Cape than there is at present, and without distressing the colonists, thus: the present duties are three per cent. on British imports, and ten on foreign goods, while by doing away with certain objectionable taxes, six and twelve per cent. might be charged on imports. There are no duties on Cape wine or tobacco, whilst at Sydney the duties on liquors are very properly high, and produce a great revenue. The merchants in England would, doubtless, object to the dues on their goods being raised at the Cape, but we must study the general good, not private interests.

7. St. Helena was formerly much resorted to for supplies, and is so still; but provisions there, from unavoidable circumstances (such as the old residents leaving the island when pensioned off by the East India Company on the transfer of the colony to Her Majesty's Government) are now dearer and scarcer than ever. Last year, seven hundred vessels touched there, most of which could not get supplies at all. Two years ago, property which was valued at 4000*l.*, sold, in October last, for 400*l.*! It should therefore stimulate the inhabitants of Cape Town to entice more ships to refresh there; seeing that they will only meet with disappointment if they put into St. Helena. We trust that, with an influx of emigrants, St. Helena will revive.

8. But now, also, provisions are so high at the Cape, that potatoes even, can be used by few respectable families; meal, which used to be twelve dollars (at 1*s.* 6*d.*) the muid, of two hundred pounds, is now thirty-five dollars; meat is 9*d.* the pound, butter 4*s.* 6*d.* ! The cause of the high price and scarceness of supplies, is in consequence of the emigration of the border farmers, of which hereafter; and as the ships

consumed 100,000*l.* worth of provisions, &c. annually, and now threaten not to touch at the Cape again, owing to high prices, the colony must therefore sustain a grievous loss.

9. A great inconvenience experienced at the Cape is in the landing of cargoes from ships: there is at present nothing but a miserable wooden jetty, quite inadequate, as to size, for the goods with which it is constantly crowded. The greater part of the cargoes cannot be landed on this jetty at all; the lighters approach the beach in its neighbourhood, and Mozambique porters then carry the goods through the water on their brawny shoulders. In summer, these poor men are roasted above and chilled below; and when the thermometer is under 60° they will not work at all. Strong though these men naturally are, they seldom live beyond thirty years with this sort of labour. It is gratifying, however, to know, that this wretched way of proceeding is soon to end, the local government having approved of a plan of a dwarf jetty submitted by the Surveyor-General, the commencement of which was ordered in April last.

10. About the year 1832 a substantial stone pier was commenced by Major Michell, near the Amsterdam battery, by order of the Home Government, the works of which were suspended in the following year (also by orders from home), although already advanced two hundred feet in length, and considerable masses of most valuable material collected near the site, for its continuation; thus rendering useless the expence incurred, and subjecting what was already achieved, to demolition by the elements. This was a work of great importance to the shipping, as affording means of rendering assistance to vessels in distress, and facilitating the landing of boats, whether the

wind blew from the N.W. or S.E. The site was selected, with great judgment, by the port captain (Captain Bance, R. N.) and highly approved of by Admiral Warren, after a personal inspection. It promised, indeed, every advantage short of *sheltering* vessels at anchor; the expediency of a work to effect which is questioned by engineers, as local peculiarities might endanger the shallowing-up of the bay. That the completion of the pier should have been arrested, is therefore a thing to be regretted.

11. Lighthouses are much required at Cape Receif (Algoa Bay), at Cape Lagullas, and at Cape Point; these, and the Cape and Algoa Bay piers, ought to be paid for by the general shipping interest, and the funds of the colony ought not to be employed in these works for the general commercial advantage.

12. The Surveyor-General recently found, at Cape Lagullas, a site formed by nature for a lighthouse, viz., a hill of tuff-like limestone, four hundred and fifty feet high, and seven hundred yards from the beach, and where, also, was abundance of stone, lime, sand, and water, on the spot. The cost of a lighthouse would therefore be trifling, with materials so conveniently situated for constructing it; and it would assuredly save hundreds of lives, and thousands of pounds.

13. In the course of last year (1837) accident afforded the inhabitants of Port Elizabeth a hope of obtaining what the low state of the public finances had until then refused them, a jetty of some sort whereon to land passengers and goods. The Feejee merchant vessel foundered at a distance of about two hundred yards from the shore, and firmly imbedded itself in the sand. An intelligent and enterprising young merchant (Mr. John Thornhill) im-

mediately conceived the project of turning the misfortune of this vessel to good account for the port, by using the wreck as a platform for driving the first system of piles for the construction of a wooden jetty, and uniting with other individuals, he purchased the hull of the Feejee, and immediately drove the first eight piles. A plan of a joint stock company was then prepared, and the consent of Government was obtained; a favourable report as to the probable success of the undertaking being made by the Surveyor-General, the shares were soon filled up, and the work is progressing towards its completion, thus verifying the homely saying, that "it is a bad wind that blows no one good."

14. Servants at the Cape, owing to the want of a stream of emigration from England, are generally very dear and very bad; thirty rix-dollars a month, is a common price for an ordinary black cook, and twenty-five for a groom; and to keep a servant six months is considered wonderful. A Member of Council said to me, one morning, "To-day I am without a servant in the house: though we gave our people good wages and victuals, there was no contenting them; they have all gone off through mere whim and caprice, and I dont know how I am to get my dinner dressed to-day. Some time ago I tried to give a little dinner to two or three friends from England, and when my wife retired after dinner, hearing a noise in the kitchen, she found that the cook had got drunk, and had gone off to Cape Town, leaving the remains of the dinner to be finished by the dogs!"

15. Another friend said, "I have got a drunken fellow of a cook, and often get my dinner at eight, which was ordered for six o'clock; and if I speak to the cook, he says

he'll go away; and its of no use turning him off, for I can get no better. Servants are so bad and insolent here, that housekeeping is quite intolerable."

16. The grand panacea for the Cape is *labour*. The climate is the finest in the world, I think, without any exception. The capabilities of the soil are great; and there is a constant demand for workmen of all kinds. The Cape wines and brandies are so attractive to the generality of mechanics, that not one in twenty can resist their seductive influence. Clever artisans exist a few years in a state of constant and wearying excitement from liquor, and are then transferred from the hospital to the churchyard; the hands are therefore few, and high priced.

17. The Malays are tolerable carpenters for rough work, but cannot execute cabinet work like Englishmen. Ship loads of excellent farm servants and mechanics are constantly passing the Cape for New Holland and Van Dieman's Land, but none stop here with their valuable living cargoes. All connected with the Cape in England must therefore exert themselves to introduce emigrants into the colony. Since 1820, when 5000 British settlers were sent to the Eastern province, no emigrants have been introduced into the colony. Before the Caffer war of 1835 the British settlers in Albany were in a very prosperous condition. Trade and agriculture flourished, the exports and imports at Algoa Bay were rapidly on the increase, when suddenly the prospects of the settlers were blighted by the destructive invasion of the Caffers. It is anticipated, however, that ere long matters will be so arranged in the Eastern province, that there will be a certain prospect of peace and tranquillity for years to come, when it will be advisable for settlers to proceed to Albany, and in the

mean time, at and near Cape Town, there is room enough and safety for them.

18. A depot should be established at Cape Town, where emigrants arriving from England could be kept till it was advisable for them to leave for the situations which offered themselves for them. They would thus be kept out of harm's way on first landing, and have a chance of being eventually better provided for.

19. Some time ago a society was formed in England for the purpose of conducting the emigration of orphan and other poor, *but not depraved,* children, from Great Britain to the colonies; four hundred and nineteen male-juvenile-emigrants, and ninety-five girls, have already been taken from the streets of London, where they were reared in the midst of vice and misery, and have been sent to the Cape of Good Hope.

20. The members of the society, who incur the great responsibility of sending these children from their native land, have been at great pains to ascertain the reception the children are likely to meet with in the colonies to which they may be sent, and accordingly required interrogatories to be satisfactorily answered, by those who could give the best information, regarding the demand for servants, and the prospect of their meeting with immediate employment from persons of good character, before sending abroad, with the sanction of Government, the children under their care, so as not to render emigration a mere change of place, without benefitting the condition of the emigrant youth.

21. The average rate of wages at the Cape for a boy of fourteen years of age, engaged in agricultural pursuits, has been about 3*l.* 10*s.* per annum, on a seven years' ap-

prenticeship, with good food and clothing. Artisans give about the same; but the demand for boys by artisans is less than by farmers. Indoor servants receive about 4*l.* per annum.

22. Boys are usually bound by indenture, and generally for seven years, or from five to seven years—also a contract legally entered into in Great Britain, for services to be performed at the Cape, will be enforced in the colony.

23. There is a constant demand in Cape Town for the labour of boys as house servants, grooms, or gardeners. But the supply of this labour from home should of course be regulated by constant advice from the colony, and which is now given by a Cape society (for the management of juvenile emigrants) which communicates with the London society.

24. By the Cape society it is recommended that boys from eleven to fourteen years of age should be sent out; that with regard to girls, as indoor servants, at first they are worth little more than their food and clothing, but after their seventeenth year their wages vary from 8*l.* to 30*l.* per annum, according to quality.

25. No girls, it is understood, have been employed in trades at the Cape; but it is supposed that if they were thus employed, their wages would amount to from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* per annum. There is a great demand for girls as indoor servants; and the proper age for their being sent to the Cape, appears to be from ten to twelve.

26. The boys who were first sent out had their passage paid by the masters to whom they were indentured, at the Cape, and they received the first year, their food, clothing, and washing, besides sixpence or ninepence per week as

pocket money, two-thirds of which was invested in the Savings Bank for their benefit.

27. That a number of the juvenile emigrants will turn out well, there is little doubt, particularly those who have not been exposed to much contamination at home, and who fall into good hands at the Cape—others, again, appear quite incorrigible, the vices of lying and stealing seem to be so implanted in them—whilst a third class fall into the hands of such bad masters, where they are allowed to herd with Hottentot servants, whose general habits are very demoralized, that it is a question, whether they had not better have remained at home, even with the chance of transportation to Australia, than to have been sent to the Cape, to degrade the character of white men, in the capacity of *white slaves*, as the Dutch call these apprentices.

28. A little work, by the philanthropic Captain Brenton, R. N. (an active member of the London committee of juvenile emigrants) points out clearly and distinctly the advantages of sending juvenile emigrants to the colonies.

29. In the matter of Cape improvements we hear a good deal, ever and anon, about removing the bars of rivers—about canals to connect one river with another—and of a magnificent project to unite the waters of Table and False Bay, to avoid the doubling of the Cape itself. These schemes may some day be attempted; but before they are, I think that the first object of Government, ought to be to improve the present landing places at Table and Algoa Bay, by building piers. and laying down moorings—the purposed intercourse by steam between the two Bays cannot succeed, unless passengers and goods can be landed at all times, and with safety, on good piers.

30. Some maintain that the English and Dutch will

never amalgamate at the Cape, and will never "pull together" for the general good; but this I hope is a mistake. Certainly, a better feeling would have existed between the English and Dutch than what exists at present, if the measure of the English philanthropists of sudden emancipation of slaves had not taken place. The Dutch were unprepared for this act of justice to their dark dependants; it took them by surprise; and it is not to be wondered at if they considered themselves hardly dealt with, though it is to be hoped that time will heal the wounds which they consider have been inflicted on them. They maintain that they have reason for complaint, since a great many of them only got about one third of the amount they paid for their slaves, and thus, as was before noticed, a farmer who gave, a few years ago, 800*l.* for slaves to cultivate his farm, receives now only 300*l.* compensation for the loss of his people; but it was difficult to prevent cases of hardship, like this occurring in carrying through the great and most humane measure of slave emancipation. How the orphans of slaves, the sick and the aged are to be cared for, and how the farms are to be cultivated in 1839, after the expiration of the apprenticeships in 1838, and when the late slaves will flock to the towns, it is difficult at present to say; but it is believed that Government has duly cared for all this.

31. The Dutch, of late years, have adopted many of the customs of the English. Thus, the late bare and varnished floor is covered with a carpet; and the Dutch houses generally are better furnished than they used to be. No farmer comes to market, without being respectably dressed in English broadcloth, with a good hat on his head, and polished boots or shoes on his feet. Skin

trowsers and untanned *field shoes* are seldom now seen at the Cape.

32. But the irrigation of land has been almost entirely overlooked and neglected by the Dutch farmers. Contaminated by slavery, they will seldom take off their coats to work, and neither dig wells, nor construct dams. I do not remember to have seen a single well beyond the precincts of Cape Town and Graham's Town, and hardly anywhere a dam, even for watering a garden. The attention of emigrants ought to be particularly directed to assist nature by collecting the water in the rainy season.

33. At present there is in agitation the formation of a good road between Stellenbosch and Cape Town, thirty-six miles, across the sandy flats which so materially impede the transport of produce to market. This road would be a most important improvement, and ought not to be lost sight of. Generally throughout the colony, the want of navigable rivers ought to be supplied with good roads and bridges. The first and best means to improve any country are, to afford facilities for communicating between one district and another, and to enable produce to be easily transported to a market. The formation of the excellent roads over Sir Lowry Cole's Pass, and Houw Hoek Pass, by the present Surveyor-General, have been very advantageous for the colony, and of great benefit to the farmers using them; but these great improvements ought to be followed up by a hard road over the sands to Stellenbosch, for the old *track* is in many places axle deep, and the sides of it are strewn with the bones of dead horses and bullocks, which have here miserably perished. The earnest cravings of the Cape people for the blessing of a good road to Stellenbosch, induced them, last year, to go

so far as to subscribe (in the form of shares) to the amount of seventeen or eighteen thousand pounds, towards the expenses of the work, stipulating for the turnpike dues for reimbursement; but the Surveyor-General's estimate amounted to 28,000*l.*, a sum not to be compassed in the above manner, and so the hope of having a hard road over the "Flats and Downs," has for the present, at least, disappeared. The bold improvements required in the way of roads can scarcely be expected to succeed under any private body; but in time Government will doubtless forward such undertakings.

34. Opening up a country by roads ought to be followed by opening the minds of the people by education. In the country districts of the Cape colony there is a great want of good teachers. A normal school ought to be instituted without delay at Cape Town, to prepare masters for country charges. The rising generation of Dutch would then see the great advantages of an improved manufacture of wine; of attending to the improvement of the fleeces of their flocks; of irrigating the land; of taking every advantage of their situation, and of developing the capabilities of this valuable, but generally unimproved, colony.

35. The difficulty of inducing colonists to invest their idle money in useful and productive undertakings, such as turnpike roads, bridges, banks, fisheries, wharfs, railway and insurance companies, or other beneficial stocks, arises, in a great measure, from their being unacquainted with the generally improving productiveness of capital, employed in all such necessary and beneficial works. Persons who do not see the good security of capital laid out in banks, turnpike roads, wharfs, and other public and useful

working companies, are generally fearful of investing money in such undertakings; but these, in most countries, and particularly in new countries, are generally the most secure investments, and produce greater returns of interest, when prudently and properly managed, than trade or commerce.

36. It is hoped, however, that the few public establishments which have been lately formed in the colony will give the colonists some experience in these matters, and draw the idle and unproductive capital from its slumbers in their *kists*, into active use in public improvements. We have heard that the South African Insurance Company's shares of 10*l.* paid up, are now worth 50*l.*; a gain, in six years, of about 40*l.* on each 100*l.* share; that the shares of the Cape of Good Hope Insurance Company, established only about two years ago, have gained about 50 per cent. That the new joint stock bank just established, called the Cape of Good Hope Bank, is selling its shares at an advance of 5*l.* on a share of 50*l.*, and that the splendid road over the Hottentot's Holland Mountains, made in the time of His Excellency Sir Lowry Cole, a late governor, and worthily named after His Excellency, who zealously promoted it, is now giving a return of 15 per cent. per annum to the Colonial Government for the capital expended in making it. This is a fine example to the colonists of what capital will produce in roads, and what solid security there is for capital invested in such undertakings.

37. It is lamentable to see the state of the fisheries at the Cape. Here, along the shores, and in the bays particularly, both Table and Simon's Bay, at the proper season, are numerous whales, ready at hand for the harpoon; but, from the inexperience of those engaged in the trade, and the want of some further and more precise regulations for

the fisheries, not one half of the valuable fish which appear in these bays are taken. The Colonial Government might, perhaps, make a considerable addition to the present revenue out of these fisheries, if some alterations could be made in the British fishery laws in favour of this colony; for the strictness and peculiarity of the British fishery laws render whale fishing at the Cape a very precarious business. The strict duty which the British fishing code compels the officers of Her Majesty's Customs to carry into effect at the Cape of Good Hope, particularly in the proofs to be given of the oil being *British*, acts as a great discouragement to the colonists entering into the whale fishing trade. If a single foreigner happens to be in a boat's crew which takes a whale, the oil is not British; if a boat is not British built, or a whale line, or whale spear, or indeed, if there is any foreign article used in the killing of a whale, the oil is not only classed as foreign, but we have heard that it is liable to confiscation. Nowonder our British fisheries in this part of the world do not flourish or succeed; no wonder we see foreigners of several nations, and particularly the Americans, resort to our coasts, and take out of the bays, and from the islands of South Africa, thousands of tons of oil, and thousands of seal skins annually.

38. The British government should look to this; for the Crown loses a large revenue, and the country a profitable and extensive trade for the lucrative employment of its ships and seamen. We fear that we shall never have experienced seamen for the southern fisheries while our laws are so very particular, and this valuable trade is so neglected by the British nation. Why should the Greenland fisheries be so protected and cherished, and those on the African coasts and bays be so neglected?

39. American and other foreign whaling ships visit Table and Simon's Bays for refreshments to the extent of many tons annually, and then show the extent of the trade, and the great value of their cargoes of sperm and black oil and bone.

40. The new bank at the Cape is succeeding beyond calculation, and has the full confidence of the public; and there is little doubt, but that, in the course of next year, the shares (paid) 33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*, will be worth 50*l.* It is, as has been already mentioned, a Joint Stock Bank, begun on the 1st of August on a trust deed. The Home Government refused at first to sanction the ordinance passed by the Colonial Legislative Council for its formation, under the plea that it would reduce the colonial revenue, by taking away part of the revenue of the Government Bank, the profits of which go into the Colonial Treasury. But now Her Majesty's Government having been induced wisely to sanction the establishment of the new bank, it has already, by competition with the Government bank, done service to the colonists by causing this last to abandon its system of imposing stamps on the bills that it discounted, and causing it to lower its rates of discount from 6 to 5 per cent., and this in fair competition; and as this Joint Stock Bank is upheld by colonists, who belong to the principal mercantile houses in the colony, and by their partners in England, there is no doubt that in the course of a short time it will take away the principal revenue of discounts which the Government Discount Bank had in the colony, and will also prevent any tampering with and deranging the colonial currency, which had been so long and so often agitated.

41. For many years there has been only one bank in the whole of South Africa, and that was the Government

bank, which issued a local paper currency, varying so much in exchange with British sterling money, as well as in its exchange with the currencies of other countries, that the original rix-dollar, which was issued at 4*s.* sterling, in some measure nominal, fell in the progress of time to the sterling value of 1*s.* 4*d.*, and is now fixed by the British Government at 1*s.*6*d.* The Commissariat receiving the rix-dollars now at that rate for bills on the British Treasury, London, less 1½ per cent. premium.

42. At present there are no other banks in South Africa except those at Cape Town, but the New Joint Stock Bank intends to form branches in the principal towns of the colony, by which trade and commerce, and particularly agriculture, will be much convenienced.

43. The capital now flowing into the colony, will, we think, produce some effect on the wine, and render it more acceptable to the English taste. Were it not for the colonies of Australia, it would be impossible for the Cape merchants to dispose of the inferior wines, and they would be under the necessity of being more particular, in order to compete with the Portugal and Mediterranean wines, were it not for the outlet to New South Wales. Unless some great improvement speedily takes place in the quality of Cap wines, and which is quite possible with care, the Cape must still look to Australia as the place for the chief reception of its vinous produce.

44. Wool is succeeding as well as can be expected with a thin population, and it is not thought that New South Wales has done better than the Cape, when we take into consideration the state the Boors were in up to the time the British settlers arrived, cut off from all enterprise in such a manner as to prevent useful combination and energy.

45. A Mr. Reitz, of the firm of Reitz, Breda, and Jou-

bert, who superintends the largest flock in the western province, has, we believe, fifteen thousand pure Merinos in the district of Swellendam. Mr. Reitz is an intelligent and enterprising young man.

46. The charge of indifference to the improvement of wool, against all the farmers of the colony, I find is not so well founded as would at first sight appear, and a comparison with New South Wales is unfair. The Cape agriculturists had already invested the greatest portion of their capital in vineyards, when the Merino sheep came into vogue; the New South Wales colonists had to begin *something*, and fortunately hit upon the right article, or it might rather be said were forced to it, as neither wine nor grain would answer in Australia at all.

47. The most of the Cape farmers were poor, and therefore prudent in not risking a new experiment. The New South Wales people had made a little money at first by selling, it is said, rum at one pound per bottle. The English settlers of Albany, enterprising and intelligent as many of them were, did not commence sheep farming immediately after their arrival in the Cape colony; even the great wool grower, Lieut. Daniell, R.N., had so far involved himself with agricultural speculations, that he was at one time on the eve of embarking for England. At first it was not at all certain that woolled sheep would answer in the Cape colony. The Messrs. Cloete, Vander Byl, Myburgh, &c. who have now large flocks of woolled sheep, derived their money in the first instance from vineyards, or they might have been much further advanced than they are at present, since they had to contend with the disadvantage of slave labour, always indifferent and expensive. Other old farmers, as the Van Reenens, the Bredas, Eksteens, &c., are not careless about improvements in sheep

or any thing else. In the year ending 5th January, 1837, there was exported from the Cape colony 116,574 pounds of wool; the value of which was 7353*l*.

48. Having had occasion to mention the name of Lieutenant Daniell, we feel bound to record, to his great credit, that he has lately appropriated a valuable section of his farm for the site of a church (in connexion with the Church of England) and parsonage; towards defraying the building expenses of which, he and other members of his own family have subscribed a sum equal, at least, to half the entire cost. The designs for the above were furnished by the Surveyor-General.

49. The abandonment of the Cape colony by a large body of Dutch colonists within the last two years, and their withdrawing themselves from the protection of the English Government, is a most remarkable fact in the history of colonies. We shall now shortly state the reasons these colonists assigned for leaving their farms, where most of them had enjoyed all the comforts suited to their condition, and where their forefathers had dwelt before them, and at once plunged into a wilderness teeming with dangers, and where they must have known they should require to exercise a constant state of watchfulness against savage neighbours.

50. The emigrant Boors said, that the sudden emancipation of their slaves without adequate compensation for them, was one reason for their leaving the colony; and they carried a number of their slaves with them into the interior. They were also vexed at the appointment of special magistrates to see justice done to master and servant; for, they said, that the magistrates were too much inclined to listen to the frivolous complaints of the slave against his master; and to fine a white man for

lifting his hand to a Hottentot, irritated the Boors beyond measure.

51. One discontented farmer said in my hearing, though, of course, I do not at all agree in the justice of his observations, "What can be worse than this? If I give a kloppé (klopje, or a little blow) to a slave, he immediately runs off to a magistrate and complains, and I am sent for from the middle of my harvest work, perhaps, and am obliged to ride twenty or thirty hours, to answer the complaint, and I come away, leaving five pounds as a fine. When I come home, I cannot help giving the Hottentot another kloppé, when I am fined ten pounds. And then, to make up for taking away our black slaves, the English have made slaves of their own children, and send them out here (the juvenile emigrants). What can be more disgraceful than this in Christian men! I shall sell my place, and be off to Natal."

52. Again the Boors complained that vagrancy was not suppressed, particularly in the border districts; that the country swarmed with coloured vagabonds of all sorts, who lived by plunder.

53. And, lastly, they said that many of them had been ruined by the Caffers, and they were afraid to remain in the vicinity of such dangerous neighbours, from whom they did not think they were sufficiently protected by a line of posts, principally occupied by Hottentots along the Fish River Bush.

54. These were the reasons the Boors assigned for leaving the colony; but there were others, also, which made old and young of both sexes *mad* to locate themselves beyond the borders. A few farmers had visited the country about Natal, where some Englishmen and others had esta-

blished themselves for the purpose of collecting ivory and buffalo hides, and who hoped to found a colony there, under the protection of the British Government. The Boors who visited this part of the coast were struck with its superiority over the Cape colony; for it abounded in water, grass, wood, and game, and the climate was also excellent. Now, though the climate of the Cape cannot be surpassed, yet there is sometimes a scarcity of rain, and consequently the pasture is not generally so abundant as it is at Natal, which is placed on the verge of the Indian monsoon.

55. The farmers on their return home inflamed the minds of their neighbours with a desire to visit the terrestrial paradise about Natal, and the adjoining territory of the Zoolahs; and, as they were afraid to go in a small body amongst some of the most warlike tribes of South Africa, they tried to get up an extensive emigration for mutual protection; accordingly, emissaries went through the Cape colony exciting the Boors against the English Government, and drawing a highly coloured picture of the region to the N.E. of the colony.

56. "There," they said, "was the garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve dwelt; every game animal is to be found there; and the trees are loaded with fruit of the largest and best description. Among other things of an extraordinary nature which are to be found there, the potatoes are so large that it requires a span of twelve oxen to drag off one of them!"

57. A movement took place not only along the eastern frontier, but generally throughout the colony; the mania for emigration rapidly spread, valuable farms of 6000 acres, with dwelling-houses, outbuildings, gardens, &c.,

were sold for the trifling sum of 200*l.* or 250*l.*, and were bought by merchants and shopkeepers in Graham's Town on speculation: one merchant, I know, bought three for the above sums. But some farms on the north-eastern frontier, I heard, were parted with for a new waggon, about 60*l.* in value; and, seemingly without regret, old and young; the aged and infirm, with their flocks and herds, moved off towards the wilderness.

58. The first party which emigrated in 1836, consisted of thirty families, and moved towards Natal, but, misled by the mountains, they passed it a considerable distance before they discovered their error; they then remained between Delagoa Bay and Natal. They were followed by other parties, some of which did not seem to have any intention of approaching the Indian Ocean at all, but keeping in the interior, they fell amongst the warlike Zoolahs of Moselekatsi, and as it was impossible to keep close together on account of the sheep and cattle, they were savagely butchered in detail by the Zoolahs.

59. But this was not to be wondered at, even though the Boors conducted themselves quietly. The Zoolahs are composed of two large tribes: one under Dingaan, whose usual residence is 170 miles N.W. of Natal; and another, under Moselekatsi, whose country lies between that of Dingaan and the town of Latakoo. The Zoolahs, like the Kamaka Damaras, use a single stabbing spear, rush to a hand to hand conflict, in the most determined manner, and are the terror of the neighbouring nations. They inhabit a fine country; still, as they are a great people, they find they have no more pasture or water than what they require for themselves, seeing, then, large parties of white men coming among them, and like a flight

of locusts devouring every green thing with their flocks and herds, and sitting down at the pools, the Zoolahs, to prevent a famine, destroyed the Boors when they had them at advantage.

60. A party of Boors, who had been worsted by the Zoolahs of Moselekatsi, sought refuge at Thabu Unchu, the station of a missionary, who had formerly laboured with energy in Namaqua land, the Rev. Mr. Archbell.

61. But the Boors did not long remain at rest, and being joined by others, they set out under a leader of the name of Maritz, to revenge themselves on the Zoolahs, and to regain what they had lost. Surprising their enemies at the town of Mosega, they slew three or four hundred of them, and recovered seven thousand head of cattle, and some waggons.

62. After the account of this victory had reached the colony, those who were before undecided to move, immediately packed up to follow their friends in the interior, and the tide of emigration set stronger than ever across the colonial border, though the government authorities exerted themselves to the utmost to stop it. Up to the 1st of April last, it is supposed that, including men, women, and children, not less than *twenty thousand white people* had gone across the borders, and had abandoned their native land for ever. This is a very serious loss to the population of a colony which only averaged one soul for every square mile, or *one hundred and fifty thousand* in all.

63. The last accounts from the farmers were still more disastrous than those which first reached the colony of their misfortunes in the interior, they had already suffered from the Zoolahs of Moselekatsi, and they were now fated to become the victims of the people of Dingaan also.

64. The cold-blooded massacre of a large party of the Boors, by the orders of Dingaan, took place in February last. The tyrant acted towards them with the blackest perfidy: they incautiously reposed confidence in him, trusted to the generosity of savages, and exposed themselves, unarmed and defenceless, amongst them, relying on their professions of friendship.

65. It appears that another leader, Retief, a worthy man, (and who had assisted the English settlers who came to Albany in 1820, to the utmost of his power), in order to ingratiate himself with Dingaan, had captured seven hundred head of cattle and some horses for him, from a chief with whom the "Great Black One" was at war; and Retief then went, with sixty mounted Boors, and forty Hottentots, to Dingaan, on the 3rd of February, to deliver up what he had secured for him, and to treat about land.

66. Apparently every thing was arranged in a satisfactory manner with the tyrant, who granted the Boors whatever they wanted; and they were overjoyed at their success with him, when, on the 6th of February, as they were preparing to saddle up and return to their families, encamped at some distance from Dingaan's residence, the chief invited them to a dance and to drink milk, but he asked them not to bring their arms within the royal kraal. The Boors complied with the desire of the perfidious chief, and whilst they were drinking, about two thousand of the Zoolah warriors were ordered to dance before them; they advanced and retired, and then forming themselves into a half circle, at a signal from Dingaan they fell on the Boors and their servants, half a dozen on each man, and dragging them across a river to the "Hill of execution," they there either twisted their necks or knocked out their brains with knobbed sticks.

67. A missionary (the Rev. Mr. Owen) living at Dingaan's residence, was spared, and permitted to go to Natal, on giving up a waggon; and he was told that Dingaan had killed the Boors because he knew that they intended to kill him! Not content with what he had already done, the monster, immediately after the above tragedy, sent a strong force to surprise the Boor's camp, where about three hundred more fell, men, women, and children. A handful of men rallying after their first surprise, slew a number of the Zoolahs, who then retired.

68. As soon as the news of these disasters reached Natal, the white people there, English and Dutch, immediately assembled their people, and white and black went out, one thousand strong, against Dingaan, but he had fled with his hordes, and the Natal force returned without being able to effect what they intended.

69. Thus had the path of the deluded self-exiles been marked with blood, and it must so continue to be stained, either with their own blood or with that of the natives, whose domains they invaded, unless the tyrant Dingaan soon falls, or they retrace their steps to the colony.—Bitterly must the survivors of the unfortunate emigrants lament their precipitation in abandoning hastily a colony where, though many of them had suffered from the Caffers, they were at least more secure than among the savage Zoolahs, and where they might have expected that in time, the measures of Government would have placed the persons and property of those on the immediate frontier in security —whilst those at some distance from the Caffers had nothing to dread, and certainly had no excuse for taking the road to the Wilderness.

70. The character of the colonists of South Africa is not understood in England, as the whole of them are usually

accounted as men who are continually oppressing the natives, and are consequently retaliated upon; but to class them all under one head, indiscriminately, is quite an erroneous way of viewing them—they ought to be divided into three distinct classes, 1st. the Dutch cattle farmers, of the north and north-eastern borders, and who resembled the Back-Woods-Men of America, because they were brought by their position in contact with the Boschmans, &c., and between whom and the natives there was frequent warfare, and, doubtless, many cruelties committed on both sides. 2d. The inhabitants of towns, and the Dutch farmers living at a distance from the frontiers, who are peaceable and well-disposed, and who never uplifted an arm against a native, except to chastise a servant with a rod. And, 3d. the English settlers in Albany, who were divided from the Caffers by the military, and who never had it in their power to plunder the natives beyond the colonial borders, who outnumbered the settlers as ten to one. The settlers were principally occupied with agriculture, and some of them had trading stations among the Caffers. They (along with many of the Dutch farmers) suffered severely by the Caffer invasion of 1835; indeed they were the chief sufferers.

Now, to conclude these rough notes, it is confidently anticipated that the suppression of vagrancy, the promotion of emigration, &c., and an increased force of *English* and native dragoons, or of soldiers who will act indifferently on horseback or on foot (and a large proportion of whom being our countrymen, could not be tampered with by the natives beyond the borders), will secure the tranquillity, and ensure the prosperity of the Cape colony generally.

"Viret in æternum."

J. E. A.

A Summary View of the Trade and Navigation of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, from the 6th of January to the 5th of July, 1837.

	Vessels Inward.		Vessels Outward.		Customs Duties alone	Total Revenue.
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.		
					L. s. d.	*L. s. d.*
Cape Town -	189	69798	191	70202	16823 12 10	19052 14 0
Coastwise -	43	2965	43	3199	- - -	- - -
Port Elizabeth -	13	1996	11	1653	1794 3 10	1873 9 1
Coastwise -	19	2143	24	2576	- - -	- - -
Simon's Town -	22	6961	22	7250	139 10 4	226 0 3
Coastwise -	- -	- - -	- -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Total, Colony -	224	78655	224	79105	18757 7 0	21152 3 4
Coastwise	62	5128	67	5695		
Grand Total -	286	83783	291	84800		

	Total Value of Imports.			Total Value of Exports.		
	L.	*s.*	*d.*	*L.*	*s.*	*d.*
Cape Town - - -	508740	18	4	193263	5	0
Port Elizabeth - - -	53957	0	0	19180	0	0
Simon's Town - - -	1411	0	0	25	0	0
Total, Colony - -	564108	18	4	212468	5	0

THE END.

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